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CURRENT EVENTS

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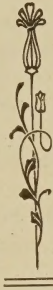
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Lands in DeSoto Parish can be bought at \$5.00 to \$10.00 per acre. Finely improved farms ready for profitable crop growing and located close to the county seat can be had at \$10.00 to \$12.00 per acre.

Mansfield is a thriving town of 3,500 inhabitants. It has good schools, beautiful churches, two railways with a third partially constructed, a splendid electric lighting system owned by the city, a good telephone system, is free from saloons, and is an ideal residence city. Industries already located here include a saw mill with a daily capacity of 100,000 feet, planing mill, brick yard, cotton seed oil mill, iron foundry, ice plant in course of construction.

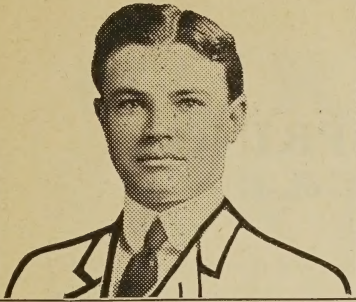
The Mansfield Female College, one of the strongest educational institutions of the South, is located here. The city is just completing a splendid high school building, sidewalks are good and residences are well kept and handsome.

Mansfield offers splendid opportunities for new factories and industries of all sorts. There is an opening for the private construction of a waterworks and sewer system, and factories of any sort can be economically operated here. Tax rates are low, and water and fuel for factory uses are abundant.

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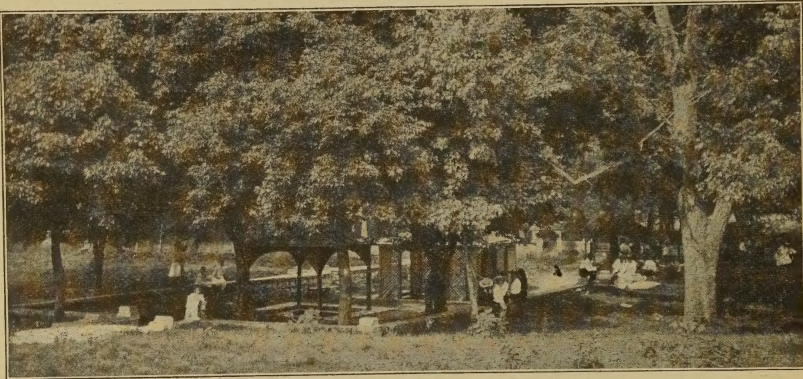
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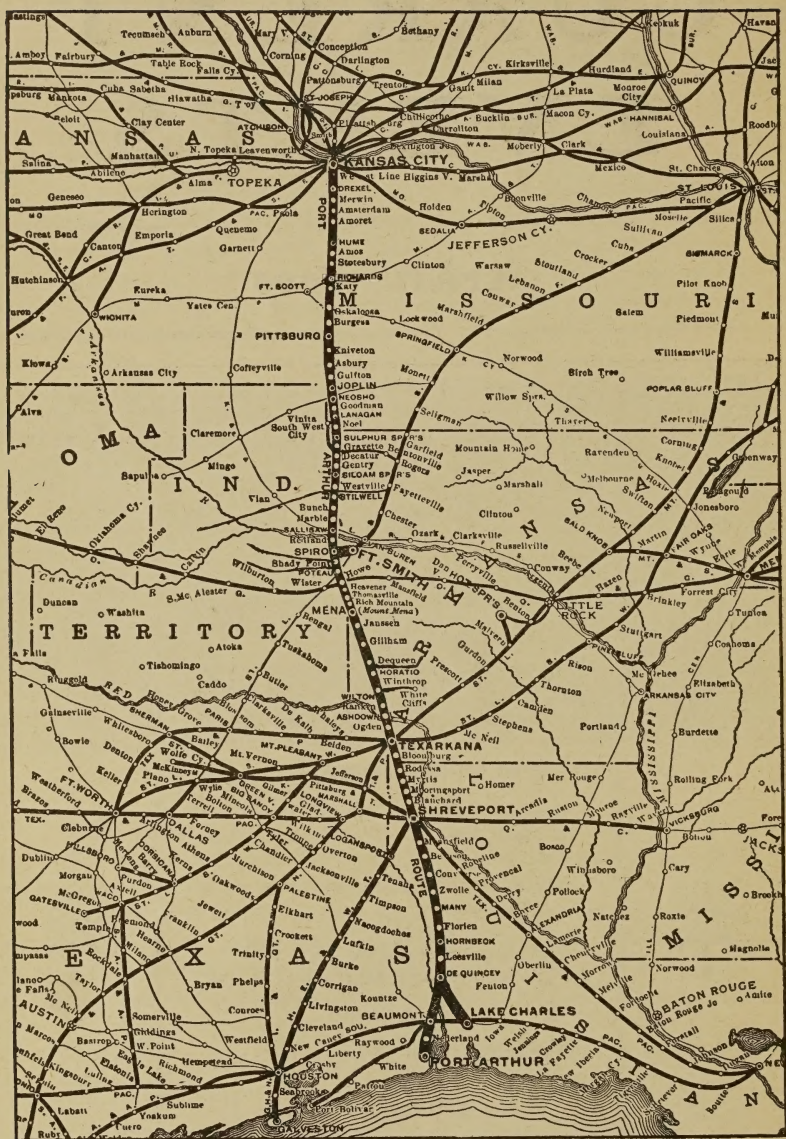
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MAP OF THE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Louisiana's Attractions.

The area of Louisiana is 45,404 square miles and comprises about 28,000,000 acres of land. Approximately one-half of this area is alluvial formation bottom land, and the other half upland and prairie land. Of the 28,000,000 acres, only about 6,000,000 acres are in cultivation, so that the state is, in a wider sense, a new country, to be exploited, settled upon and reclaimed. For fertility of soil and diversity of products, it is entitled to be placed at the head of the list of states.

Over a large area of the state four of the world's great staple products grow in equal luxuriance in the same fifty-acre field—corn, cotton, sugar cane and rice, and with these are grown alfalfa, lespedesa, and other hay crops, all the vegetables, and, indeed, everything indigenous to temperate and subtropical climates. The truck gardening industry of the state is rapidly developing, and no section anywhere in the Union offers a more promising field in this regard. The very earliest of garden products can be grown in Louisiana, and the northern markets, quickly and cheaply reached by rail, will take all that is offered.

The people of the United State import about 83 per cent of the sugar they consume. Of the remaining 17 per cent Louisiana produces about three-fourths. There is enough good sugar land in Louisiana to produce all the sugar consumed in the United States.

The longer growing season makes possible the cultivation of more than one crop on the same land the same year, and hence double the efficiency can be obtained than from lands where the growing season is short. The money value obtained per acre, according to the U. S. census, is higher in Louisiana than in any other state in the Union.

The general farmer, stock raiser, fruit grower or truck raiser can not go amiss in Louisiana. As a general farmer he has a greater range of pro-

duction than can be found in any other state, and being in position to adjust his crops to the needs of the markets, he can produce what is needed and cut out that of which there is an excess. Therefore his market is always good, because rarely if ever overstocked with any one product. The opportunities of the stock raiser are equally good. The climate permits grazing longer here than elsewhere and also permits the largest production of forage at the smallest cost.

While the fruit grower may not successfully grow a winter apple, he has possibilities in the early summer varieties, which bring high prices in the Northern markets; has a bonanza in peaches, plums and strawberries and almost an exclusive market. Figs and oranges can be profitably grown and the introduction of hardy varieties has made orange culture reasonably certain. The truck raiser can have strawberries in the Chicago market by the middle of February, cabbage and cauliflower in January, February and March; root crops, beans and peas in February and March, and Irish potatoes in April. If he operates in colonies so that sufficient can be produced to ship in carload lots, the buyer will be at his farm early and late. Melons and canteloupes can reach the Northern markets long before anyone else has any and he need not worry about the prices he can obtain. Now, after this spring crop has been marketed where fancy prices are paid for it, there is still to supply the home market, and, as a large part of the population is industrial, this market is very good, and two or three crops can be grown after the first.

The industrial opportunities are great in every way. Fuel oil in vast quantity exists in the western and southwestern part of the state and a large number of producing wells are in use. Gas is very abundant in Northwest Louisiana and Shreveport and other cities are heated and lighted with it. As a fuel it is extremely

cheap. In Calcasieu Parish is perhaps the greatest sulphur field in the world. Extensive mines are being worked there and thousands of tons are marketed. Other workable deposits are known to exist. The salt deposits are enormous in their extent. It is found over a large section of country near the Gulf and the deposit has been bored into 2,000 feet without finding the bottom. It is pure rock salt and is blasted out with dynamite, like coal in coal mines and is drawn to the surface and crushed. There are the greatest salt beds in the western world.

The lumber output of the state is enormous. Of pine alone, there are standing two and one-half million acres running from 7,000 to 25,000 feet to the acre, and in addition to this are great areas of cypress and hardwoods. A hundred mills are in operation, but new ones come in right along.

Louisiana is now the greatest oyster producing state in the Union, and the possibilities for the extension of this industry are enormous. The oyster growing area is over 7,000 square miles and within easy reach are the fisheries of the Gulf teeming with the finest of food fishes.

Raw material and fuel can be found or produced in Louisiana for almost any industry and there are in the state over 4,000 miles of navigable water and over 7,000 miles of railroads over which the products of the country can be transported to market.

With nearly 22,000,000 acres of land not under tillage and it might look as if Louisiana had neglected her opportunities by not encouraging immigration, but this view of things is not warranted by the facts. Louisiana has made great and material progress in the last twenty-five years, has increased her population, her cultivated area, her manufactures and her wealth. In 1880 the total assessment of Louisiana amounted to \$177,096,459 and in 1905 to \$396,821,157, a little over double the assessment of 1880.

The progress made in some of the parishes was truly astonishing. In Calcasieu Parish in 1886, the assessment amounted to \$3,191,125, in 1896, to \$7,379,455 and in 1905 to \$19,450,-

590, considerably more than six times as much as twenty years ago. Some of the other parishes have done equally well, Acadia Parish increasing its assessment from \$1,132,025 in 1887 to \$6,430,895 in 1905. Twenty years ago the title to much of the land in Louisiana was either in the National Government or in the state and hence not taxable. The taxable area in 1887 in Acadia Parish amounted to only 216,287 acres and in 1905 to 386,988 acres; in Calcasieu Parish in 1886 the taxable acreage was 1,331,725 acres and in 1905 2,388,291 acres, similar increases taking place also in other parishes. Calcasieu Parish in 1886 had an enrollment of only 1,250 pupils, 37 teachers and 37 schools; in 1905 there were enrolled 8,159 pupils, 183 teachers and 155 public schools. Acadia Parish in 1886 had 1,013 pupils, 28 teachers and 29 schools; in 1905, 3,495 pupils, 76 teachers and 58 schools. In 1886, the entire banking facilities of Southwest Louisiana, from New Iberia to the Sabine consisted of the J. B. Watkins Bank, private, at Lake Charles and Merchants Bank of New Iberia, capital \$15,000. In 1905, there were in operation in the same territory thirty-two regularly organized national and state banks, having an aggregate capital of \$1,577,150, a total surplus of \$991,450 and undivided profits of \$346,218. Of these banks eight are in Calcasieu Parish, six in Acadia Parish and three in Vermillion Parish. In 1886, a small rice mill was built in Rayne, being the first country mill in Southwest Louisiana, and in 1893 a two-story rice mill 34x36 feet in size was built at Crowley, the engine, a fifty horsepower affair, being used at a pumping station and moved to the mill when ready for milling. In 1905 there were thirty-three large rice mills in the three parishes mentioned, and the rice milling industry now extends from Donaldson on the Mississippi to Brownsville on the Rio Grande. The rice growing industry which previous to 1890 depended entirely on the rainfall, was provided, in the parishes named, with 399 miles of main canals, 580 miles of laterals and comprises a total acreage of 243,394 acres. In the same time the crop has increased from

45,000 bags of rice to two and one-half million bags.

The results for the past twenty years speak for themselves. Much has been accomplished, but there is plenty of

land for a million or two people not there now, and all things considered Louisiana is now the most attractive field for immigration to be found anywhere in the United States.



MAIN STRETE, DECATUR, ARKANSAS.

Decatur, Arkansas, and Surroundings.

Decatur is one of the numerous prosperous towns situated on the western slope of the Ozark Mountains in northwestern Arkansas. Benton and Washington counties in Arkansas and McDonald county in Missouri form the northwestern water shed of the Ozark uplift, and are noted more for the salubrity of the climate, the exceptional purity of the water and the enormous production of fine fruit, particularly apples, peaches and strawberries, than any other section of the United States. The year 1907 was not considered a good fruit year anywhere, yet the Northern Ozark Fruit District, including the counties mentioned, sold between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 worth of fruit. The fruit pro-

duction of Benton County for 1907 was as follows:

Cars of green apples, 1,163; cars of dried apples, 133; cars of apples in cold storage, 283; cars of peaches, 163; cars of strawberries, 105; bushels of apples to distillery, 98,000; bushels of apples for cider, 253,715; crates of blackberries, 6,841; crates of raspberries, 13,808; bushels of apples canned, 125,800; peaches, 23,800; tomatoes, 5,000; cars of apples wasted, 63.

The total received from apples was \$1,132,654, and from the other fruits, \$650,000. The total receipts from the sale of fruits in the one county are \$1,782,654. For poultry and eggs, \$250,000 to \$300,000.

The record is believed to be one of the best in the country.

Washington, the adjoining county, has done equally well. In view of the fact that the county is well adapted



PICKING APPLES, DECATUR, ARKANSAS.

to general farming and profitable stock raising, and that a complete fruit failure is a very rare occurrence, if it happens at all, it can be readily understood why so large a number of prosperous towns should be located in this section.

Decatur is 217 miles south of Kansas City and 62 miles from Joplin, Mo., and in point of altitude, 1,231 feet, is one of the more elevated towns on the K. C. S. Railway. It is a compact little town of 350 people, surrounded by some two hundred farms and orchards within a radius of five miles. It has been making a steady growth from year to year, the town's increase keeping pace with the adjacent country. During 1907 twenty-five new people settled in town, and eight new farms were put in cultivation, the improvements being valued at about \$5,000. About 1,500 acres are devoted to apple orchards and other fruits, commercial truck, etc., and about 5,000 or 6,000 acres to corn and general field crops. In the town two new dwellings, costing \$1,500, a new bank building and

two mercantile buildings, costing about \$5,000, were erected. Two new merchants, and the State Bank of Decatur, capital \$10,000, opened up for business. The shipments from Decatur during 1907 amounted to 27 carloads of apples, 10 carloads or 18,000 crates of peaches, 50 crates of canteloupes, 15 carloads or 20,000 crates of strawberries, 12,000 crates of blackberries, 1,000 crates of pears and plums, 5,000 pounds of poultry, 8,000 cases of 30 dozen

each of eggs, 8 carloads of cattle and 8 carloads of hogs; in addition to which there were large shipments of charcoal, mine timbers, ties and other products. The average daily balances amount to \$35,000. The manufacture of vinegar, charcoal, fruit boxes and crates and the evaporating of fruits have been the principal industrial enterprises.

The fruit growing industry of Decatur has reached a magnitude sufficient to make profitable the manufacture of preserves, jellies, fruit syrups and canned goods, and a corporation is in process of formation which will secure



FARM HOUSE OF GEO. BRUSSE.

an elaborate plant for the manufacture of these goods on a large scale. Twenty-five thousand dollars will be required to complete this factory and put it in operation and most of it has been subscribed.

The lands of the Western Ozark region and of Benton County, Arkansas, are varied in their composition and contour. In the immediate vicinity of Decatur they are rolling rather than hilly. The areas of bottom land, though highly fertile, are as a rule small and narrow. The soil is usually a very dark loam, and excellent for all ordinary field crops as well as for potatoes, berries and commercial truck. The uplands generally are covered with a thick layer of fertile red or chocolate colored soil and are unexcelled for the cultivation of fruit, berries, grapes, etc., and produce abundantly domestic grasses which are sown for pasturage, such as blue grass, clover, etc. Some of the uplands or ridges are covered in places with gravel, though most of the land is entirely free from it. This loose gravel does not in the least interfere with the cultivation of the land and in the production of fruits and berries is considered of decided advantage, as its presence tends to retain the moisture in the soil and it has been observed that fruits grown on this land are better colored and mature more early than on other lands. Under proper cultivation these lands yield very good crops of corn and small grain. Nearly all the country in the vicinity of Decatur was originally covered with a growth of hardwood timber, consisting of various kinds of oaks, some walnut and other timber. There is a ready sale for this timber in various forms and the income derived is generally more than sufficient to pay the cost of clearing the land where this is necessary.

While general farming and stock raising are carried on here profitably as everywhere else in the Ozark region, the "ready money crop" is fruit of one kind or another. The "Big Red Apple" generally buys the bank stock in this section, and as a commercial crop is as dependable as a source of continued income as any other crop.

It is grown and handled as a commercial proposition and is usually sold long before the crop has matured. About fifty trees are grown to the acre and a mature tree should readily produce an income of \$2, or \$100 per acre. Fruit which does not meet the market requirements is evaporated or converted into vinegar or cider, and if the market is slow it is placed in cold storage until the price is satisfactory. Partial failures and at very long intervals a complete failure occasionally happens. Strawberries are grown extensively and net, one year with another, from \$75 to \$100 per acre. Raspberries, blackberries, cherries, plums and peaches are grown more or less extensively and are shipped with other fruits in carload lots. The peach crop is more or less uncertain, yielding say four crops in six years and is exceptionally valuable when obtained. The railway facilities are such that fast fruit trains, with refrigerator cars, deliver fruits in Kansas City, Chicago, Minneapolis, Denver, etc., as fast as passenger trains can travel.

Poultry raising furnishes a large part of the income of this section and is common with other towns in Benton County, Decatur ships large quantities of poultry and eggs, for which there is always a ready market. Live stock of all descriptions is profitably raised, as the native grasses are abundant and nutritive. Domestic grasses are readily grown, and in the matter of forage the country is wonderfully productive. Pure water is abundant everywhere and Kansas City and St. Joseph are distant only a day's run.

The natural conditions in Benton County do not require that the farmer shall limit himself to one line of production, that is to say, to put all his eggs in one basket. He can grow his wheat, oats, corn, clover, timothy, blue grass, flax, alfalfa, potatoes, here as abundantly as elsewhere, and indulge in stock raising, poultry raising and in fruit and berry culture besides. He can so arrange it as to have a cash income almost any month in the year, if he properly diversifies his farming operations.

Highly improved lands in the immediate vicinity of Decatur are valued

at prices ranging from \$50 to \$125 per acre, the higher price for bearing orchards. Unimproved or partially improved lands, range in price from \$10 to \$35 per acre. Where convenience for quick and easy hauling of fruits to railway station are not the principal consideration and where general farming rather than fruit growing prevail, unimproved lands can be had at prices ranging from \$5 to \$12.50 per acre. Under present conditions a man of moderate means will have no trouble to find tillable land compatible with the dimensions of his purse, and the man who wants a highly improved farm with bearing orchards and high class improvements can also find what he seeks. In either case improved or unimproved land can be had here for a smaller outlay of money, in a fairly well populated country, than almost anywhere else.

The landscape of the Ozark region is one of singular beauty and Decatur has its share of attractions. Great springs of the purest freestone water abound. One very large spring is in the Decatur Park in which a commodious summer hotel is to be built sometime during the present year. The general altitude is over 1,200 feet, affording a pure atmosphere, a moderately cool summer temperature and



ON SPAVINAW CREEK, NEAR DECATUR.

very pleasant and healthful winter weather. On the score of climate Decatur has all it can wish for.

Decatur needs, first and foremost, more farmers, stock raisers, fruit growers and truck gardeners, and for these there is available and abundance of good cheap lands. There is an abundance of hard woods, limestone and brick clays for manufacturing. Dairy farmers, and poultry and hog raisers should do splendidly here. In town we need a furniture and hardware store, a cannery and an ice and cold storage plant, which latter could operate also as a waterworks and electric light plant. For information concerning local conditions address Geo. Brusse, E. N. Plank, Jr., Immigration Committee, Decatur, Ark.

Some New Mexican Members of the French Legion of Honor.

It is not generally known, but is nevertheless the fact, that there are on one of the big cattle ranches in New Mexico, two members of the French Legion of Honor, and they are not Frenchmen either, and according to Bob Griswold, "it happened in this wise:"

"Not so many years ago a fool Congress took off the duty paid on Mexican and Canuck cattle and did the same thing for wool and sheep. They were going to save the country by giving the dear farmer cheap woolen socks and cheaper leather footwear and to the workmen in

the cities cheaper meat. All the smart Alecs did was to bring the price of cattle to bed rock and then some deeper. Sheep and wool became worthless and the farmers' hogs would not bring half of what it cost to raise them.

"The farmer did save a dollar on his socks and shoes, but lost a hundred dollars on his hogs, cotton and corn, and the city workman lost his job because the farmer didn't feel rich enough to buy factory goods. On top of all this came a three-years' drouth that blistered the Texas Panhandle and singed the grass off from the New Mexican plains. It's not easy to raise cattle where there is neither grass nor water and so the heifers, cows, calves and yearlings were hustled to market, barely bringing enough to pay for their hides.

"On the XXXYZ ranch were two cowboys, who had not been on a 'toot' for a year, because their pay was long overdue and credit in town was played out. The 'old man' could neither borrow nor steal the money to pay them and therefore concluded to make them a proposition and did so:

"'Boys, I've been to town and tried to get some money for you, but it was no go. I could take a small bunch of steers down there and if I tried real hard I might get five dollars apiece for the best of them. You have been with me ten years, I have always done right by you and I know you don't want me to throw them steers away like that. You don't need that money now and I can feed you and will stand for any clothes you want to buy. Take as many cattle at the market price as will square accounts, put your brand on 'em, raise 'em, on my pasture, and in a year or two you'll make a good thing of it.'

"The proposition was accepted, and, some three years later Tom and Bill accompanied the 'old man' to Chicago with a train load of cattle. The boys had three carloads of their own in the lot. The market was very good. Fancy prices were obtained and the 'boys' got more ready cash than they ever dreamed of possessing at one time in their lives. They determined to lay over a few days and see all there was to see in the great city of Chicago. After listening to much advice from the 'old man' on the subject of keeping clear of bunko-steerers and

other shady citizens, they started on their round of pleasure seeking.

They thoroughly took in the various theaters. High-class drama and Shakesperian plays did not interest them much, but the vaudeville was simply great. They confidentially told the clerk at the Stock Yards hotel that they were going to stay in Chicago indefinitely and take in the show every night while there. The clerk told them that the only vaudeville worth seeing was in New York. A few days later Tom and Bill were in Gotham. All the theaters were visited and they agreed with themselves that the hotel clerk in Chicago was a good prophet, and that the vaudeville in New York was far superior to that in Chicago. A newly made acquaintance, who had taken many drinks with them, however, assured them that they had only seen a vile imitation and that the genuine article was only to be found in London. They had no clear ideas as to where London was, but knew that it could be reached by boat.

"Ten days later a pair of New Mexican cowboys were in London. The only good thing in it was the vaudeville show. The drinks dispensed at the public houses were in their estimation vile and the population of London worse than the drinks. After sundry fisticuffs with cabbies, hotel porters and waiters, some of which were expensive, they concluded to start for home with a half-formed resolution to thereafter lick every Englishman they might meet in New Mexico. At the railway station they met a young American who was on his way to Paris. He was an amiable chap, who had traveled far and seen much and from him they learned that the only original, simon-pure vaudeville was to be seen at Paris. When the American started he had Tom and Bill for traveling companions. Under the guidance of Mr. Smith of Providence, who had 'done' Paris several times before, they had a week of unlimited enjoyment. The vaudeville was beyond comparison; the cooking was good, though not equal to that of the ranch cook at home; the people were the most cordial on earth, and the variety of drinks to be had in Paris was greater than either in Chicago or Tularosa. Human endurance, however, has its limits; the French drinks and bills of fare

were beyond their capacity, though under ordinary conditions they could fast like an Indian and gorge like an ostrich. Both found themselves laid up for repairs and while convalescent spent a week in a small suburban town a few miles from the city.

"Both were lolling on a bench in front of the small hotel discussing in a reminiscent way the exciting events in which they had participated since they left New Mexico and heartily wished themselves home again, where they could see the mountains, two hundred miles away and drink the ice-cold, freestone water of the Tularosa Canyon. A couple of cavalry officers dismounted, hitched their horses to the hitching post and entered the hotel. Tom and Bill were estimating the quality of the horse flesh before them, when their attention was attracted to a disturbance further up the street. People were shouting, running and scattering in all directions, falling over themselves to get out of the way of two black Spanish steers, which had escaped from some butcher, were goring horses and charging at everything in sight.

"This looks like old times, let's tail them,' and in an instant Tom and Bill had cut the hitching straps, mounted the horses, dodged into a side street, and emerged behind the steers. In a few seconds each had secured a firm grip on the tail of a steer while riding at full tilt. By a quick movement, utilizing the momentum of the horse and the slower speed of the steer, the latter was thrown head over heels. The operation was repeated half a dozen times with like dexterity, and then it was found that one steer had broken his neck and the other a leg. The brutes were now harmless and a gendarme approached and killed the animal with the broken leg.

"Dismounting at the hotel, the two New Mexicans resumed their seats on the bench. 'Wonder if we will have to pay for them steers? If we have to, we had better wire the 'old man' for some money to get home on.' Within a few minutes they were surrounded by a great throng of excited and gesticulating Frenchmen, and anticipating trouble of some kind, they retired to their rooms, packed their grips and awaited further developments. Smith of Providence would come in the afternoon and see

them safely off on the hike for home.

"Late in the afternoon a brass band accompanied by several gentlemen in carriages called at the hotel and the two New Mexicans were escorted down stairs and seated in one of the carriages with a smiling Frenchman. Smith of Providence had not yet arrived, and so a proper understanding of the situation was out of the question. 'Well, this is going to jail in proper style, and don't you forget it, Bill. The sheriff of Otero County could get a pointer or two here. Down our way they just put a pair of bracelets on a feller and chuck him in the hole, and there ain't no brass band trimmin's about it either. Wonder what this here entertainment is going to cost, anyway?' 'Don't know,' says Bill, 'but it will leave us dead broke, *poco pronto*, that's certain.'

"They soon reached a fine large building, and were escorted inside, where they met an old, bald-headed gentleman, who made them a long address of which they did not understand a word. They were introduced to a number of others, who bowed and scraped and also made remarks which were not understood, but they could not help reaching the conclusion that all these people were very friendly, and they began to feel easier about the cost of the steers. On their return to the hotel they found Smith of Providence and he listened to a wonderful tale, and on further inquiry from the hotel proprietor he learned that his proteges had been formally invited to an elaborate dinner that night. On the advice of their friend Smith, they each purchased an evening suit, for which they were not allowed to pay, and decked themselves out in style. The dinner was an elaborate affair, which lasted several hours, and consisted in the main of speeches and champagne. Mr. Smith of Providence and the bald-headed old gentleman did much of the speech-making, and as to the champagne Tom and Bill just stayed with the crowd. How they got back to the hotel they have never been able to explain intelligently. When they came too in the morning they found that someone had pinned a red, white and blue ribbon to each, and on their departure, a week later, they found their hotel bill paid and a large official envelope was handed to each. Everybody

saluted them effusively during their stay.

"Three weeks later they were back on the ranch in New Mexico. They had related their experiences to the county attorney, who happened to stop at the ranch over night, and among other things they mentioned the big official envelopes, which the attorney requested them to show him. After examining the papers, the attorney remarked, 'Well,

boys, you are both Knights of the French Legion of Honor, and this pigskin with the big seal certifies for personal bravery exercised in saving the lives of the people of the town of —.' 'Oh, Lordy, is that what all the fuss was about? Why, we just tailed a couple of black steers to keep them from horning horses that were hitched along the street. Anybody that can ride, can tail a steer.'"

Sevier County, Arkansas.

A recent report on the city of De Queen, compiled for the purpose of ascertaining what improvements, if any, had been made in the growth of the city during the year 1907, revealed the following information: The population of De Queen had increased from 3,903 in 1906 to 4,293 in 1907, a distinct gain of 390 people. In the same time there had been built 38 dwellings of 3 to 6 rooms and 42 of 6 to 10 rooms, the same costing \$74,925; seven 2-story brick store buildings, costing \$17,125; a concrete fire-proof ice factory, cost \$35,500; hardwood lumber yard and buildings, cost \$25,900; new sawmill and planer, cost \$75,000; machine shop, wagon and carriage factory, \$7,000; fourteen small canneries, cost \$4,500; concrete fire-proof bottling works, cost \$5,500; cotton gin, metal and brick veneer, \$5,875; cotton ware house, \$2,000; a box and crate factory, cost \$2,000; two metal ware houses, cost \$3,950; pressed brick county court house, cost \$15,000; one 3-story school house, cost \$16,500; one frame school house, cost \$1,650; new park, cost \$2,575; new theatre, cost \$12,500; K. of P. lodge building, \$2,000; 12½ miles streets graded \$2,500; two miles streets graveled, \$3,950; sixty-two concrete and tiling culverts, \$5,100; two miles concrete gutters and curbing, \$4,375; six miles of concrete walks and crossings, \$33,399, total street improvements, \$49,324; concrete fire-proof electric light plant, \$35,000; telephone improvements, \$3,000; De Queen & Eastern R. R. Shops, \$50,700; general office buildings and rolling stock, \$100,000; K. C. S. Railway, one-

half mile of sidings. Twelve new firms with a joint capital of \$64,000 have engaged in business and the daily bank balances are now \$185,000.

The shipments from De Queen during the year amounted to 5,723 bales of cotton, 49,500 crates of peaches, 1,500 crates of cantaloupes, 1,800 crates of strawberries, 1,200 crates of blackberries, 800 crates of pears and plums, 5,100 pounds of poultry, 1,775 cases of 30 dozen of eggs, 8 carloads of radishes, spinach, onions and tomatoes, 115 carloads of cattle, 10,000 pounds of wool and 97 carloads of hogs.

The population of country within five miles has been increased by 503 persons. Forty-seven new farms were opened up and 989 acres were put in cultivation in farms, the improvements being estimated at \$16,000. In 1907 there are within a radius of five miles 300 farms of which 260 are devoted to trucking, and during the past three years 7,900 acres have been planted in fruit trees. The total acreage within the area mentioned is 20,600, of which 7,900 are devoted to fruits, 3,100 to corn, 1,600 to small grain, 6,100 to cotton, 1,100 to commercial truck and 1,100 to hay and pasturage. One hundred and seventy-one land purchases were made by newcomers, who brought in 80 carloads of household goods and immigrant movables. The general increase in the business of the city of De Queen is estimated at 250 per cent.

The foregoing reports shows a splendid year's work, which, however, would have been impossible, had not soil, climate and other natural conditions been favorable for such develop-

ment. About one-sixth of the tillable land of Sevier County is now under cultivation, and the present population and cultivated area could be multiplied several times before land values would become so high as to no longer interest new settlers.

For its area Sevier County has a much larger per cent of tillable land than perhaps any other county in western Arkansas. It lies on the southwestern slope of the Ozark Plateau, forming part of the Red River water shed. The surface of the county is generally smooth, though gently undulating, except in a mineral strip about six miles wide extending along the northern border, but even of this over one-half is good tillable land. The mineral strip contains veins or deposits of lead, zinc, antimony and other ores, which in time will be developed and constitute important industries.

Traversing the county north and south are the Cossatot, Saline and Rolling Fork rivers, each a fine large stream with a broad valley of exceptionally fertile bottom lands, none of which are liable to overflow. They consist, in the main, of friable black loams, or chocolate loams, easily tilled. Between these river bottoms, which are ten to twelve miles apart, are gently rolling uplands, traversed by numerous small streams issuing from springs. The upland soils, though varied, consists in the main of red clays, mixed in varying proportions with sand and humus. All of them retain moisture to a remarkable degree and yet have perfect sub-drainage. As a rule they are warm soils and respond promptly to intelligent cultivation.

The ordinary field crops yield well in Sevier County, but being favored by climatic conditions not generally found in the Northern states, and being shielded against the cold north winds by the Ozark Mountains, the range of production is greatly increased, and the productive capacity of the land is greatly enhanced, that is to say, many of the crops can be grown at a time in the year when this is impossible further north, and owing to the length of the growing season two and three crops can be grown on the same

land. It is therefore possible to secure a much greater income per acre in Sevier County than from the richest land in the Northern states.

The corn crop varies in yield from 25 bushels to 80 bushels to the acre, the largest yield being obtained from the bottom lands. The market price, one year with another, ranges from fifty cents to sixty-five cents per bushel. As a great variety of forage crops can be grown, no one is of necessity compelled to raise corn, and therefore the price is never less than fifty cents. Cotton yields from one-third of a bale on the uplands to one bale and a quarter on the river and creek bottoms. The average bale contains 500 pounds, and the average price, one year with another, is about 10 cents per pound or \$50 per bale. The seed, usually 1,000 pounds for every 500 pounds of lint, is worth ordinarily from \$20 to \$25 per ton. An acre yielding a bale of lint worth \$50 would also yield half a ton of seed, worth \$10 to \$12.50. Small grains yield good crops, but the percentage of profit obtained in the Northern and Western states is considered too small in Arkansas to warrant the farmer to raise these crops, and therefore only enough for home consumption is produced. Kaffir corn, oats, millet, domestic grasses and forage crops generally are produced for home consumption only. As Sevier County has a large industrial population engaged in the lumber industry, quarrying, mining, etc., there is an excellent home market for everything produced. Alfalfa yields splendid crops in the southern part of the county and the several thousand acres in cultivation yield a large revenue to the growers.

The "money crops" of Sevier County are the cotton crop, aggregating 15,000 to 20,000 bales, worth from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and of which De Queen shipped 5,723 bales worth \$286,150; about 110,000 crates of peaches, worth \$165,000, of which De Queen shipped 49,500. Horatio 54,000. Lockesburg 2,000 crates, 5,800 crates of blackberries, strawberries and plums, worth \$6,000; about 10,000 pounds of poultry worth \$1,000, about 5,000 cases of eggs, worth \$15,000.

about 12 cars of commercial truck, worth \$12,000, 2,500 crates of cantaloupes, worth \$1,200; cattle, hogs, etc., several hundred carloads.

Commercial fruit and truck growing are still in the earlier stages of development, though from 8,000 to 9,000 acres are now devoted to these crops. Most of the orchards are young and less than one-fifth of the acreage has trees old enough to bear fruit. In the next two or three years the fruit shipments will be quadrupled in quantity, and the cotton and live stock production will be vastly increased.

Sevier County is most splendidly adapted to raising live stock with profit. The natural pasturage is luxuriant and can be counted on to last nine months in the year. As much of the country is timbered there is ample protection for live stock of all kinds. Good pure water is abundant everywhere. Forage of all kinds yields abundantly and domestic grasses yield fine crops. Oats and wheat are sown for winter pasturage and are cut for hay in April. Cow peas make an excellent hay and yield from 40 to 60 bushels of peas, worth from 75 cents to \$1.00 per bushel; peanuts yield well and make a good hay, alfalfa yields from 5 to 6 tons, worth \$12 to \$15 per ton, and from forty to sixty bushels of Milo Maize, Egyptian or Kaffir corn are obtained from an acre. All of the sorghums yield well and in fact any kinds of forage can be profitably grown and marketed. The mildness of the climate in mid-winter makes it possible to produce live stock of any kind at less than half the cost at which they are produced in the Northern states. Much high grade live stock has been raised in the county in the last few years and most of the old scrub stock in cattle and hogs has been eliminated.

The growth of the county has been very rapid in the last two or three years, and the towns, De Queen, county seat, population 4,293, Lockesburg and Horatio, population 1,200 each and Gillham, population 600, are prosperous trade centers. De Queen is 433 miles south of Kansas City on the K. C. S. Railway, and Lockesburg, another good town, surrounded by a splendid farming country, is on the De Queen & Eastern Railway, distant 12 miles from De Queen. Horatio, five miles south of De Queen, is the shipping point for the 3,000-acre peach orchard of the Southern Orchard Planting Co., who in another year or two will have fully three thousand acres in bearing peach trees.

Sevier County has been settled for about sixty years, but being remote from easy railway transportation made the growth slowly. A good school system was established early in the history of the county and has been maintained to this day and has been vastly improved. The advent of the K. C. S. Railway made the county readily accessible, and its cheap and fertile lands have attracted thousands of new settlers. Highly improved farms, convenient to trade centers, churches, schools and the railways, vary in price from \$25 to \$50, if planted in orchard, the price may vary from \$40 to \$125, according to improvements, number of trees planted and in bearing, etc. Other good tillable lands can be had at prices ranging from \$6.00 to \$25.00 per acre, the price quoted being dependent on location, whether bottom land, or upland, whether cleared or in timber, etc. Any one seeking a new home can find one here commensurate with his means. Mr. E. N. Brown, of De Queen, Ark., will be pleased to furnish any specific local information desired.

Arkansas Pearls and Diamonds.

One of the little known industries of Arkansas is the fishing for pearls. Whether or not it really can be called an industry is a question, but nevertheless a considerable number of people engage in it each year. About the month of June, some of the natives of the back country along the Black River, the White River and several other streams make a search for pearls. Pearl fishing in the open sea is more or less attended with the danger of diving into the capacious maw of a hungry shark, or falling into the loving embrace of an octopus, not necessarily a trust. In the several rivers of Arkansas, the fresh water clam, known elsewhere by a more scientific name, has been quite abundant. This unfortunate bivalve is much sought after by men who ought to be hoeing their cotton, but it happens not infrequently, that one of a thousand will yield a large fine pearl, which may bring from \$5 to \$1,000. Individuals have in some years succeeded in finding enough valuable pearls to secure an income of \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Various kinds of boats are used in pearl fishing, but a double hulled scow, with a stern paddle wheel worked by levers near the center, is the preferred variety. Each boat is usually occupied by two men, the boat being anchored in mid channel over a bed of clams. One man operates a very long pair of tongs and usually brings up one or two dozen at a time. The other man removes them from the tongs and dissects them carefully for pearls. Another method sometimes used is to take an iron rod some six or seven feet long and attach at intervals of a few inches pieces of rope about two feet long and having frayed ends. A long rope is fastened to the center of the rod, which is lowered to the bottom and is dragged behind as the boat drifts down stream. At the lower end of the bed, the rod with its attachments is hauled into the boat, the mussels or clams clinging to the short ropes like bunches of grapes. It seems that the clams lie on the bottom, with their shells wide open to feed on such matter as the current may bring them. The frayed

ends of the ropes dragging over them are either mistaken for food, or irritate them and they close tightly on the strands and hold on until pulled off by main force.

The poverty-stricken pearl hunter wades in the water and feels with his toes in the mud for the clam, and when he finds it he ducks under and gets it or uses a rake. This method is as exciting to an earnest pearl fisher as is a game of poker. The danger rarely extends beyond catching a cold and occasionally a clam. There is nothing to fear from the native denizens of the rivers, as the bull frogs, catfish and black bass are somewhat fastidious. The business in the aggregate is said to amount to more than a hundred thousand dollars. The streams have been so vigorously robbed of their clams during the last few years that U. S. Government regulation has been requested in order to prevent the extinction of the clams.

In southern Arkansas, covering the area of several counties, is a belt of country in which, at some remote period of time, violent volcanic disturbances took place. In this area are well defined mineral veins of cobalt, manganese, iron, zinc, copper and other ores. Gold and silver have been frequently found, but not in quantity to warrant mining them. Quartz crystallizations are quite common and several varieties are known as "Hot Springs Diamonds" or as "Horatio Diamonds," both varieties having been used more or less in the making of cheap jewelry.

The presence of the real article, the pure carbon diamond was among the possibilities until August, 1906, when two stones were found on the Huddleston farm near Murfreesboro, in Pike County, Ark. These, with some 140 others found since then, have been pronounced true diamonds by experts on precious stones, and by the U. S. Geological Survey, which has issued the following report thereon.

"Although diamonds have been found in at least thirty places in the United States, the only locality where they occur in place has recently been discovered and has been investigated by George F. Kunz, the gem ex-

pert, and Dr. H. S. Washington, petrographer. They occur in an igneous rock, similar to that in the South African mines, which forms a small crater near Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas. The first two stones were found August 1, 1906, and since then many of them have been picked up, the total number found at last reports being 130. Many are white and of good water, others are yellow and some are of brown bort. The two largest stones weighed six and one-half karats, one being exceedingly fine white and the other brown. They are found on the surface as well as within the greenish, friable, decomposed peridotite, a rock somewhat like the famous "blue ground" of Kimberley. The property is being actively prospected and developed.

New York, Aug. 12.—What is believed to be the first diamond field ever discovered in this country, has developed in Pike county, Ark. About a year ago an ignorant native there, walking along the side of the road, picked up a queer looking stone and took it to a local lapidarist, who said that it was a diamond. Since that time 129 stones of the same kind have been found, but not until recent investigations, carried on by Dr. George F. Kunz, a leading authority on diamonds in this country, has the locality around Pike County been declared a diamond field. It is apparent from the investigations that have been carried on that the new field is not the result of "salting," and there seems no reason to doubt that the first diamond field on American territory has been discovered.

According to Dr. Kunz today, the peculiar formation is volcanic rock like that in the South African diamond fields. It covers an area of 100 acres but the stones have all been found within an area of five acres. Some of the stones are white, some yellow, and some brown. The biggest weighs about six and one-half karats. They have been found on the surface of the rock and in a greenish substance of the same sort as the famous "blue ground" of Kimberley. The whole field is owned by Arkansas capitalists who expect to make their fortune out of it.

The mere fact that diamonds had been found would not of itself be of import-

ance, because they have been found in twenty-nine other places in the United States at various times, but the importance which attaches to this discovery, as compared with all others in America, lies in the fact that all other finds have been of one or two stones and in each case they have been glacial.

While there seems to be little doubt but that the stones from Murfreesboro in Pike County are genuine, other counties are also being heard from. It is claimed that a diamond weighing 75 carats has been found, three miles from Dardanelle, in Yell County, and that \$1,000 was refused for it. Claims are also made for "finds" in Howard County. With the superabundance of fine rock crystal scattered over several hundred square miles, "finds" will no doubt be made every week in the year.

Little Rock, Aug. 26.—According to State Mineralogist Whitlock, the syndicate which owns the diamond fields in Pike County, has been offered \$1,000,000 for the tract by eastern people. So well satisfied are the Little Rock people, who own the field, with their purchase, that the offer was unconditionally refused.

Mr. Whitlock knows the land where the diamonds were discovered, and says that the field is three times as large as the Kimberley mines in South Africa. The Pike County field is about 35 acres in area, and the Kimberley mines are about 11 acres in extent. The value of the Arkansas mines will depend upon the depth of the clay. The deepest mine in South Africa, where the gems are found, is 700 feet. From external observations and the formation of the land, the local syndicate believes that the Pike County bed will go deeper than 700 feet and possibly 1,000, but if it goes to the latter depth, Deputy Commissioner Whitlock says that the field will be worth at the lowest and most conservative calculations, \$100,000,000.

SPECIAL MENTION.

The Wilhelmina Inn, on Rich Mountain, Ark., will be open this season. For information address M. O. Maxwell, Manager, Rich Mountain P. O., Ark.

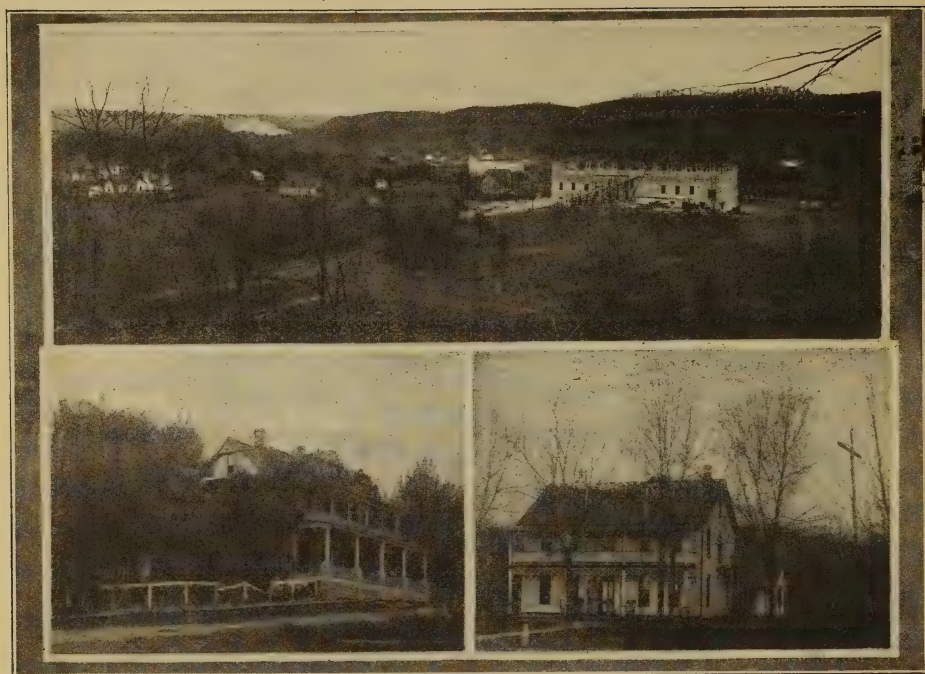
The Valley Hotel at Boggs Springs, Ascites P. O., Ark., has been renovated throughout for the season of 1908. E. C. Estes, proprietor.

The Siloam Springs, (Ark.) Chautauqua will open about the first week in July. It will have an unusually fine series of lectures and entertainments. Mr. F. W. Bartell, Siloam Springs, Ark., will furnish any desired information.

The new Connor Hotel, one of the finest in the State of Missouri, costing \$500,000 will be opened for business in Joplin about April 1, 1908.

The Missouri & North Arkansas R. R. under construction from Helena, Ark., to Neosho, Mo., is now in operation from Neosho, Mo., to Leslie, Ark., via Eureka Springs.

The Arkansas, Oklahoma & Western R. R. has been completed to Siloam Springs, Ark., and is now operated between Rogers, Ark., and Siloam Springs, Ark.



SOME OF THE HOTELS AT SULPHUR SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.

Sulphur Springs, Arkansas

"THE BEAUTY SPOT OF THE OZARKS."

SOME COMMENTS BY A CASUAL VISITOR.

It is refreshing to visit Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, for the place has such rare natural beauty, the air so pure and bracing, the wonderful springs have such great merit, and the town is improving so fast that the visitor is imbued with a spirit of exhilaration, which is peculiar to this natural health resort. The stranger resolves to cast his lot where nature has been so friendly, or he at least resolves to return as often as his business will permit.

It is the ideal family resort, a place where women and children will be delighted with their surroundings and feel at home among a warm hearted,

hospitable people. The pure mountain streams are fed by hundreds of springs, and there are no mosquitoes. Over 1,000 feet in altitude, it is above the fever line, and just right for pleasure and recuperation, a happy medium between the high and the low altitude resorts. Mild in winter and cool in summer, possessing all of the necessary qualities, it is destined to become a famous ALL THE YEAR 'ROUND HEALTH AND PLEASURE RESORT. It appeals to the Northern tourist in winter, to the Southern patron in summer and to the health-seeker all the year around.

It is only necessary to announce what has already been accomplished in one season to give an idea of what the future assures for this resort. Improvements which represent an outlay of over two hundred thousand dollars. (\$200,000.00) are now being made and the gratifying feature of it is the fact that there is an urgent demand to justify the investments that are being made. The accommodations have never been sufficient to care for the large number of people who visited this resort; indeed it has often been necessary to turn away nearly as many as could be provided for. In order to meet this situation, sufficient capital has been interested to provide modern accommodations, which are now in course of construction and will be ready for the public in ample time for this season's rush of business.

On a beautiful site overlooking the fifty-acre park, and the town and valleys beyond, is building a modern \$50,000.00 hotel and bath house, which will open July 1st and be operated by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Kihlberg, formerly of Excelsior Springs, Mo., and Manitou, Colo., who are conceded to be the most successful bath house managers in the West. It is being constructed of native stone, five stories high, containing one hundred rooms, modern throughout and surrounded by a wide veranda. The Kihlberg Hotel grounds will occupy an entire block, and command a magnificent view. The building is an imposing structure—a monument to the wisdom and enterprise of its builders, Messrs. Kihlberg and Guthrey.

A company has been organized for the purpose of delivering the waters of the springs in all parts of the country.

A Swedish colony has been organized and already the tide of immigration has turned toward the lands near Sulphur Springs. The hills will be soon covered with trees bearing the choicest fruits, for no better fruit lands are to be found anywhere. This land is cheap, the valleys are fertile and the soil productive. The colony movement is under the management of such well known men as Messrs. Thorsen-berg and Swensson, of Lindsborg, Kansas.

During the summer of 1907, the K. C. S. Ry. carried into Sulphur Springs on special trains alone over 5,000 passengers, thus gaining for that resort the title "Playground of the K. C. S. Ry." When these pleasure seekers return next summer they will find many new attractions to interest them. A large new island, several acres in area, has been made in the lake, and on this ground has been built what will be known as the "Coney Island of the Ozarks." The boating facilities have been doubled, a bathing beach provided; substantial buildings have been put up, including boat and bath house, bowling alley, pool and billiard parlors, refreshment pavilion, shooting gallery, merry-go-round, shoot the chutes; also a ball ground, tennis and croquet courts; in short a full line of modern attractions has been provided.

The railway has enlarged its meal station, and it is now considered the best on the entire line. Additional trackage has been put in to accommodate excursion trains.

A Normal College, recently located, has just completed a \$10,000.00 building and is now in successful operation.

The Blumqvist Sanitarium, formerly of Omaha, has located at Sulphur Springs and work has begun on a \$14,000 building.

Mr. H. H. Berggren, of Lindsborg, Kas., has purchased a site to erect a three-story stone business block.

The enterprise and public spirit of the place is shown by the fact that ten blocks of concrete sidewalks are now being laid, the streets are being graded and a stock law enforced. A score of new cottages have been built, many of them unusually attractive. An enterprising newspaper newly located is lending encouragement to every development.

Mr. C. J. Williams, a progressive citizen, who has spent \$11,000.00 within a year improving his property adjoining the park, has ordered material for a 75-foot steel observation tower to be built upon the summit of his property. This tower will command a view of four states—Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

A company has been formed to utilize a natural water power near the

town. It is planned to erect a dam and build a reservoir supplied by a single spring flowing over a million gallons of water per day. This water will furnish power to operate water-works, electric light and ice plants, and construction is to begin at once. Cost, \$30,000.00.

The new buildings contracted for, or under construction, are the following: Dr. John Morse Griffin, a two-story stone business building, 50x70 feet, to cost \$5,000; the Lutheran Church, a hospital, to cost \$25,000; Mrs. Borsheim, of Omaha, a two-story business building, to cost \$15,000; Mr. Holmes, of Wahoo,

Nebraska, a two-story stone building, to cost \$4,000; two frame cottages, to accommodate visitors, \$10,000; Mrs. Miller, summer visitors' cottage, \$7,000; Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Topeka, Kans., a 25-room lodging house, to cost \$5,000, a department store building, and seven cottages, to cost \$1,000 each; Mrs. Beam, of St. Louis, a two-story frame hotel, with 40 guest rooms, to cost from \$10,000 to \$12,000; the Spanish Treasure Cave Company, capital \$30,000, to develop a great cave near the outskirts of the town.

They are laying well the foundation for a great modern resort, and the outlook for Sulphur Springs is very bright.

German Lutheran Colony Near Mena, Ark.

The Rev. George Kirschke and Mr. A. H. Sasse, both of Mena, Ark., have undertaken to enlarge and strengthen the German Lutheran congregation at Mena, by encouraging the settlement of the adjacent country with thrifty German settlers from the older states who desire to maintain their church affiliations, and in this work they have been eminently successful. The lands near Mena abundantly produce all the standard field crops, as well as fine fruits in commercial quantity, and are well adapted to raising live stock. There is still open for settlement a large area of good tillable lands, conveniently situated, which can be had at prices ranging from \$8 to \$20 per acre, the higher price being for land more or less improved.

The country surrounding Mena, in Polk County, is more or less undulating and hilly in places. Two-thirds of all the land in the county is tillable land of good quality. The remainder affords good grazing and some of it is used for that purpose. Traversing the county are many fine fertile valleys, and there is much good upland soil suitable for all agricultural purposes. The river bottoms are black or chocolate colored loams, the upland soils, dark gray and red loams. The whole county is well grassed and the cultivated grasses common to the Northern

and Western states, yield excellent crops. The principal field crops grown are cotton, of which some 10,000 to 12,000 bales are produced, corn, oats, wheat, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, melons, peaches, pears, forage crops of all descriptions, and berries, the latter in large quantity. As a fruit and truck country it is unexcelled and a profitable fruit and truck industry has been developed, at Mena, Cove, Grannis and several other stations in the county, at all of which are found also great peach orchards.

Cotton yields from half a bale to a bale per acre, corn from 25 to 60 bushels, oats from 30 to 50 bushels, wheat from 10 to 15 bushels, potatoes from 100 to 250 bushels and usually two crops per year. The potato crop is generally worth from \$60 to \$100 per acre for the early crop, strawberries yield a revenue of \$75 to \$150 and peaches, which like the berries are shipped in carload lots, about \$100 per acre and often more. Apples yield a fine fruit and are grown extensively in the higher parts of the county. Live stock of all descriptions, owing to the large acreage of open lands and open pasturage, can be raised very cheaply.

The climate is delightful all the year round, as the general altitudes is more than 1,200 feet above sea level. Pub-

lic health is unusually good, as there are no local causes for disease, and the water, a pure freestone, as fine as can be found anywhere. There are no stagnant waters anywhere in the county. All the streams are swiftly flowing mountain waters, supplied from thousands of springs found in all parts of the county.

Building material, timber, stone and fuel are abundant and cheap. Schools and churches are located at convenient places, and the educational facilities will compare well with the best found in a rural community.

The principal towns in the county are Mena, the county seat, population 7,000; Cove, population 400, a noted truck and fruit shipping point; Hatfield, population 600; Grannis, population 750, noted for peach and strawberry shipments, and the stations of Wicks, Hatton and Janssen. There is more or less good farming land, fruit and truck land at all these places and

enough to make farms for several thousand families who may desire new homes at the minimum cost. A man with limited means, if he will work and use his wits can accomplish more here on a small outlay than almost anywhere else. A small farm of 30 acres planted in vegetables, melons, etc., has yielded in two years, an average of \$90 per month, running as high as \$138 in one month and \$127 in another. A crop of vegetables is quickly grown and an income can be secured almost every month in the year. The ordinary field crops produce as abundantly here as on the best lands elsewhere, but the "easy money" does not come from the low priced field crops, but from the orchards, berry patches and truck gardens. The gentlemen named at the head of this article will be pleased to furnish any desired information, as every newcomer will be welcome, and there is land enough for all who desire a new home.

Truck Gardening in Texas and Louisiana.

Eastern Texas and western Louisiana are so much alike in soil, climate and general characteristics that there is practically no difference in the variety of crops grown or the productive capacity of either. The field crops in quantity of yield and in kind are identical and in truck gardening the production per acre and varieties grown are the same. In Texas, however, the truck growing industry has been developed earlier and a much greater acreage is in cultivation. The report of the Southern Texas Truck Growers' Association for 1907, shows the receipts for shipments made to amount to \$647,271.38, showing an increase of 71 per cent over the shipments of 1906. At a conservative estimate Texas produced in 1907 over one million dollars worth of onions. The variety grown is known as the Texas Bermuda and has yielded the growers an average of \$130 per acre, though in some instances \$300 and \$400 per acre were obtained. About 5,000 acres

were planted to this crop and about 1,000 carloads were produced.

The important feature about this truck-growing region is the long growing season, making it possible to produce five crops from the same land in two years. In fact, along the Gulf Coast this range of production is considerably increased. In ordinary seasons the following mentioned crops are produced: In January and February, strawberries, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, carrots, radishes, lettuce, spinach, etc.; in March, the same with Irish potatoes; in April, the same with beans; in May, the same with cucumbers, potatoes, and Cape Jessamine buds; in June, all of these with cantaloupes; July, figs, hay, watermelons, and most of those already mentioned; August, the same as July; September, the same with snap beans and a second crop of spring vegetables; October, figs, hay, oranges, snap beans, turnips and radishes; November, all of these with figs and strawberries; December,

all kinds of vegetables and strawberries. In eastern Louisiana the truck growing industry has reached enormous proportions, and as early as 1898 the railway transport of truck was estimated at nearly 100,000 tons. In western Louisiana, along the K. C. S. railway, a truck growing industry is rapidly developing and truck growers associations have been formed at most railway stations. Irish potatoes, melons, cantaloupes are principally grown for the Northern trade. The country has a large number of industrial enterprises, consuming nine-tenths of all the truck that is grown, and the truck growing population will have to greatly increase before the figures of east Texas or eastern Louisiana can be reached.

As to what is actually accomplished in a money-making way on small acreages is shown in hundreds of reports printed in the local newspapers. A farmer living two miles east of Bulard, Tex., planted last year, 1906—several acres in tomatoes which netted him \$166.66 per acre; this year, 1907, he realized \$300 from a similar crop. In addition, this year he planted cabbages for the home market and sold these for \$157.14 per acre. Another farmer in the same vicinity received \$355 from two acres in cabbages. Another farmer near Tyler, Tex., obtained \$100 an acre on 17 acres of tomatoes. On the same land he planted 3 acres in June corn, yielding 75 bushels, 2 acres in Irish potatoes, yielding a revenue of \$52.10 per acre, and on 2 acres he planted cowpeas which yielded a good crop of hay. The land was then sown in winter oats, which gave this man three crops in one year from the same land. The estimated value of the truck crop of

1906 in east Texas is \$5,000,000. One single firm in Jacksonville, Texas, alone handled 704 cars, and the gross sales of this particular firm were as follows: Irish potatoes, \$22,441; tomatoes, \$196,247; peaches, \$66,615; water-melons, \$3,000; total, \$288,303. The bank deposits of 1906 in one bank at Jacksonville amounted to \$403,000 and 90 per cent was deposited by truck farmers.

The lowest average amounts realized per acre in east Texas and Louisiana are for tomatoes \$150, for potatoes \$75, for peaches \$50, for cantaloupes \$50, for ribbon cane syrup \$150, for cotton \$35. As the same land can be used for two or more crops, the money yield of the acre is often doubled. The Bermuda onion yields as high as 24,000 pounds to the acre and has been sold f. o. b. for 2½ cents a pound or \$600 per acre. New potatoes shipped on April 27th, have been sold for \$3.30 per bushel. Extra early tomatoes frequently bring from \$200 to \$400 per acre, and cucumbers shipped April 10th have brought \$3 per bushel. Carrots, string beans, radishes, beets, spinach, cauliflower, cabbages, yield often from \$200 to \$400 per acre, and sometimes a potato crop yielding from \$90 to \$125 is followed by a melon crop yielding \$150 more from the same land.

Louisiana and Texas have several million acres of land which can be bought for \$5 to \$10 per acre, and produce any and all the crops mentioned above, and make the man who is willing to work it rich on short notice. All that is needed is for a dozen or two of friends to locate near a railroad station, so as to be able to produce in car load lots and then get busy, the soil and climate will quickly do the rest.

THE SPANISH TREASURE CAVE

NEAR SULPHUR SPRINGS, ARK.

F. E. ROESLER.

In the ages long since gone, when Mother Earth was several million years younger than she is now, the waves of a great ocean dashed to and fro over that part of Uncle Sam's domain now occupied by the Ozark

Mountains. This ancient ocean was teeming with billions and billions of minute sea animalculae, crinoids, trilobites and forms of animal life now extinct. Nearly all of them were encased in shells composed of lime or



THE KING'S CANOPY, SPANISH TREASURR CAVE.

like coral secreted lime, which formed part of their structure. For thousands of years they lived and died and the shells and harder parts dropped to the bottom, where, in the course of ages, they formed the great limestone ledges peculiar to the Ozark region. Later in the history of the earth these ledges were covered with layers of clay and on top if these other thinner layers of limestone.

Then came a period of time when the earth trembled, the mountains spat fire and smoke, the ocean flooded the then existing continents and the great Ozark Plateau or Uplift rose from one to three thousand feet above the level of the sea, and the face of Mother Earth was different from what it had been before.

At the base of this plateau was a fresh water sea, and after a long period of rest there developed in it the dragons of o'd, the great lizards, sometimes a hundred feet in length, and in the air were flying reptiles of enormous size, the ancestors of our birds. On the land grew up the ancestors of the elephant and his thick-skinned friends, the tapir, rhinoceros, and other big pigs, etc., and also the ancestors of the horse, the buffalo and kindred animals and later came the cave bear and sabre-tooth tiger. While the earth was being populated with new forms of animal life, Dame Nature was also busy in other ways.

The great limestone ledges, from one hundred to four hundred feet thick, during their emergence from the sea, were fractured and fissured in thousands of places, and now the rains, the sunshine and the frost began their work. The rains and the sunshine promoted the growth of a rank vegetation, which, decaying, formed humic and other acids, and these, carried into the seams and

fissures, began to erode the limestone ledges. The seams and fissures in time became great caverns, extending for many miles and creating a maze of underground rivers, pools and water channels, making practically a vast honeycomb of an apparently solid mass of rock. In many of the caverns the roof fell in, and in course of time the debris was washed away, forming an open mountain stream and a valley. These caverns formed a most efficient drainage system, and most of the surface streams derive their water supply from them.

The rains and the frost also promoted surface erosion and cut the vast table-land into hills and valleys as we know them now. After a time changes in the water levels caused by volcanic disturbances retired many of the caverns from the duty of serving as water channels. Erosion practically ceased and then Dame Nature went to work in another way. She abhors a vacuum and when not engaged in making a hole, will put in her spare time in filling one up.

Some water still percolates through the seams and fissures in the rock, and carries lime in solution, which under favorable conditions will crystalize and be again deposited, a process which has been going on for untold ages. Many of the caverns have been filled up completely and in others the process is going on continuously.

On the western slope of the Ozark Uplift there are hundreds of such caves or caverns, but most of them are difficult of access, and when entered, very difficult of exploration. Of those near Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, the Spanish Treasure Cave, or the Big Black Bear Cave, as known to the earlier settlers, has been found to be the

most easy of access, to have the largest natural passage-ways and the greatest number of caverns, chambers, halls, rooms, or whatever they may be called, and these are more abundantly supplied with stalagmite and stalactite formations than any other cave heretofore explored in the Ozark region.

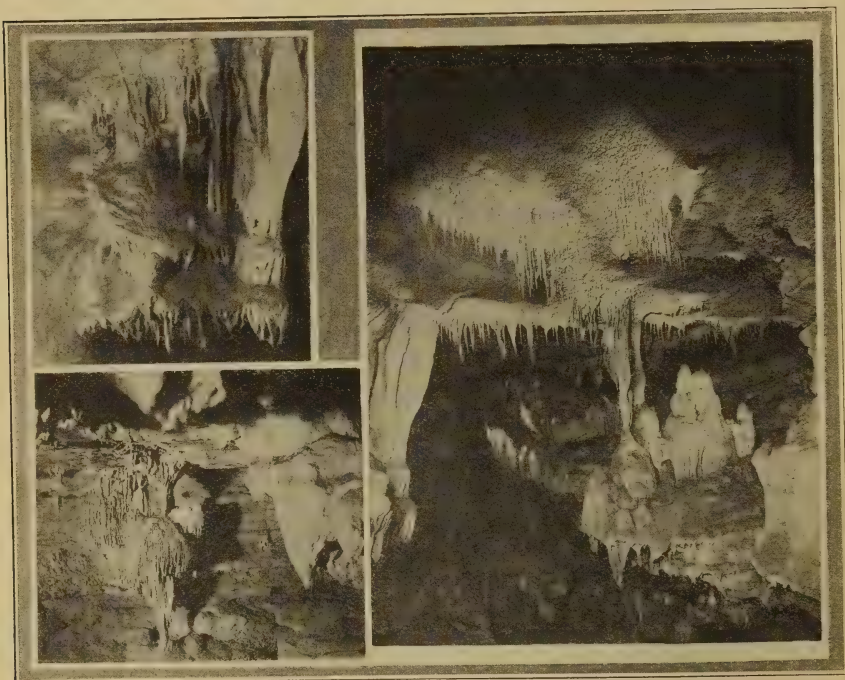
The phenomenal development of Sulphur Springs as a health and pleasure resort has made desirable the development of a cave for the entertainment of the visitor at the Springs. Some twenty odd caves were explored, and with this end in view, and of all of them, the Spanish Treasure Cave, a short distance from the town, was deemed the most worthy and capable of the greatest development. The necessary capital stock of \$30,000 was promptly subscribed and the property purchased. The work of electrically lighting the underground passages with incandescent lights and the various chambers or caverns with arc lights, the clearing out of the debris, the widening and enlarging of passage-ways, of building bridges and stairways, and of exploring the innermost recesses of this labyrinth of passage-ways and caverns, embellished with curtains of crystal, glistening pillars of stalactites and crystalline formations of every imaginable kind, is now well under way.

A cavern of this magnitude, only in part explored, is naturally the theme of tradi-

tion, and story, legends, mysterious whisperings and surreptitious comings and goings of those who have sought to find in some hidden recess the wealth that others are supposed to have found and forgotten to take away with them.

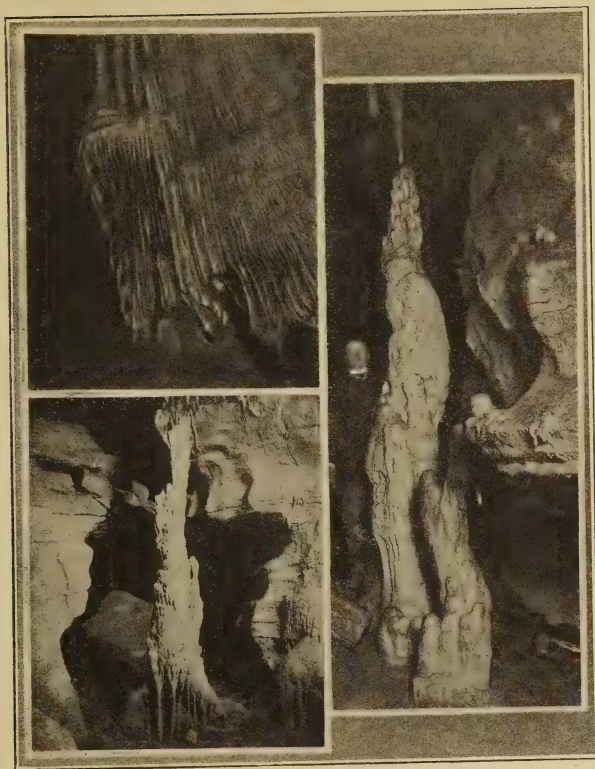
The Spaniards of the olden days were gentlemen equipped with an abnormal appetite for gold and a magnificent imagination. They could see the glitter of gold farther off than any modern Wall Street financier. Their fervid imaginations created the El Dorado beyond the Orinoco and led them through the desert to seek Gran Quivera, with its golden roofs glittering in the sunlight, its gates inlaid with turquoise, rubies and emeralds, and its temples decorated with pearls and precious stones. With the Golden City always in sight, but just beyond reach, distance in leagues and miles cut no figure with the wanderer in search of it.

Tradition has it that about two centuries ago Don Carlos Lavilla prospected the Ozark Mountains near Sulphur Springs, Arkansas. Lead and zinc outcroppings are common in Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas. Where there is lead, there is usually also silver, and generally they are found in place. Gold is where you find it and the most likely place to look for it is in the sands and gravel of the streams or ravines. If found there, it is likely to be found in the hills higher up.



"THE ANGEL."

"THE LANDLADY."



PIANO ROCK AND STALAGMITE COLUMNS.

In his prospectings, Lavilla came upon the tracks of a big black bear, which led him to the mouth of the cave at the base of the hills. The spot looked promising and the bear was promptly ejected, surrendering his title to the newcomer. To leave an unappreciative bear in possession of a cavern lined with gold is worse than throwing pearls before swine. According to the tradition, he prospected the cave, made a map of its interior on a sheep skin and returned to Spain. Gold he did not bring, but the family record book was enriched with the story of a wonderful El Dorado in the Ozark Mountains, accompanied by a map and minute directions for finding it.

Later on, after the original explorer of the cave had gone to rest with his fathers, the heirs of the castle in Spain and the El Dorado in the Ozarks organized an expedition to the cave and traveled half around the world to reach it. They dug tunnels and deep pits, located a vein of ore and worked it. According to local tradition, they smelted rich ores and stored in some remote corner of the cave a treasure in bullion worth three million dollars, and if you don't believe it, any resident in that section can

show you the place where the smelters were. It does not appear that the heirs of Lavilla carried back to Spain any vast amount of treasure.

About the year 1900, another descendent of Lavilla came from Mexico with a sheep skin map to search for the gold that one ancestor had found and other ancestors had mined and smelted. He found the land in possession of several citizens of Benton County, who had reached the conclusion that they could not afford to let three million dollars lay around loose, and were digging up the bosom of Mother Earth in the effort to find it. What day dreams the seekers after treasure indulged in, which one was going to have the biggest Hereford stock farm in the country, or buy out all the banks in Arkansas, or become the father-in-law of the Earl of Puddinghead, or the Duke of Chili-con-Carne, tradition sayeth not, but they had dug a deep hole and moved many tons of dirt, when the descendant came along with the map, and told them they had missed the safe deposit box by a mile or two. By the aid of his chart, he soon found the mouth of the cave, which had become choked with earth. His description of the

interior of the cave was accurate and everything shown on the chart was found, except the bullion, and then the descendant of Lavilla went his way. The local syndicate continued the work of exploring for some time, and after having carried out sundry tons of earth and accumulated a good-sized dump at the mouth of the cave, all except one became possessed of that tired feeling and sold their interest to the one member, who had an abiding faith, and through him the present owners acquired title to one of the most beautiful caves in the world. There is no question but that it is a natural cave of surpassing beauty, but in the minds of many it is an unsettled question as to whether or not it is also a mine. The tunnel entrance shows human handiwork in abundance, and the big dump outside shows that the miners, or dreamers, worked in good faith.

The new owners care naught for the treasures of Lavilla, and are willing to leave these to the gnomes and goblins and the surviving member of the old syndicate, but when they have constructed their electric light plant, have wired and lighted the passages, caverns and chambers, have cleared out the debris of several thousand years' accumulation, and have made all interesting places readily accessible, they will bring within the range of human vision grand exhibits of nature's most beautiful handiwork.

At least a quarter of a mile from the entrance of the cave has been explored where it was possible to get through the passages. Nearby and far beyond are numerous passages lost in darkness profound. Breezes blow through narrow crevices, the walls and floors give forth hollow sounds, indicating caverns beyond, above and below; in places the tinkling music of water falling in drops and in others the dull roar of some hidden cataract.

The whole cave is a succession of great caverns, chambers or halls, connected by narrow passage-ways, and in these caverns or rooms the walls, floors and ceilings are decorated with stalagmites projecting upward from the floors and from rock shelves, or stalactites hanging downward from the roof like petrified icicles, or forming gorgeous canopies where they drop down from some projecting rock. In some places a fluted column rises from floor to roof, thick as a man and white as alabaster. Along the wall are hundreds of niches and grottoes filled with the most exquisite limestone crystalizations, and in other places curtains and draperies in stone, and so delicate in structure that no sculptor could copy them. On the floors grow huge mushrooms in stone; here a row of dragon's teeth, there a wilderness of totem poles, and in the flickering lights of the candles a host of white glistening uncanny forms that cause the imagination to run riot.

A quarter of a mile underground will take a traveler further away from home than a journey around the earth. The sense of direction is soon lost, and the maze of white

unearthly forms, outlined against the blackest of backgrounds, constantly changing as one moves about, will give an active imagination, plenty of exercise. A man or a woman with a good imagination can readily find anything from a cemetery to a throne room, from a barber's pole to Cleopatra's needle, from a toad-stool to a draped stone angel with outspread wings from a grand church organ to a canopy fit for a king's bedroom. He or she can see in the fantastic arrangement of the stalagmites and stalactites, and their black shadows thrown by a passing light, the imitation of things that are and are not in vegetable and animal life of the earth. The spooks, gnomes and goblins hover in the shadows; now you see them and now you don't. They are cutting all sorts of capers. You can hear them softly singing, but when you approach the choir they apply their magic and you see only drops of water falling into cups or basins worn by the water.

In the Spanish Treasure Cave there is a great cavern of onyx; at another point a waterfall, not yet located, is heard; at another, a lake across which a stone cannot be thrown, and beyond the five or six caverns already explored there may be fifty or a hundred others, the location and extent of which can only be conjectured. The numerous side passages lead somewhere, and the present owners will ascertain whereto and what there is beyond the wall of blackness from which they emerge. Bridges and stairways will have to be built in many places, and here and there something will have to be done for the comfort of the tall man and for the fat man, and dangerous places will have to be cut off by iron railings, but all these things will be done, and done well.

The road between Sulphur Springs and the cave will be shortened nearly a mile and graded for automobiles and trolley travel. Near the mouth of the cave will be a commodious rest house and headquarters for the guides, where meals may be had and Indian potters, blanket weavers and onyx workers will ply their trade, while the visitors hie themselves to the abode of the gnomes in white and dream with eyes wide open the fairy tales of the nursery days when they were young.

The exploring party consisted of a small photographer with a big camera, who encountered in the narrow passages some things he was not thankful for; a physician possessed of a most cheerful disposition, who had been there before, and the writer. "Some day we will have a motor boat ride on the 'River Styx' or navigate the 'Midnight Sea' when we have explored the lake," the doctor remarked. "Yes, I have always understood that the medicos started many on the journey across the Styx, but I didn't know that old Charon was sufficiently up-to-date to use a motor boat," retorted the writer. "Oh, well, then call it the 'Midnight Sea.' All you have got to do is to put on your overcoat, look at the stalactites and imagine that you are hunting for the North Pole." About this time the writer stopped

and had both hands and feet in a mud bank, about which he made some comments.

"These are the first derogatory remarks I have heard about this mud," says the doctor. "Here you have got over 75 cents worth of the finest anti-phlogistic mud about your person, and because you don't know how to use it you raise a roar about it. Why, people will travel a thousand miles to get it, and thank their stars that it can

be had. This is the finest remedy in the world for skin diseases of every description, and you would be surprised to learn how many people have been cured and benefited by using it. I consider this the most valuable thing in this cave." Whereupon the writer commented no further, and washed his hands in a puddle, and thought of the wealth he was going to lose when he applies his clothes brush.

The Fruit Crop of 1907.

The annual report of the Commissioner of labor and statistics of the State of Missouri, recently published, gives a statement of the surplus products shipped from the various counties in the preceding year.

The shipments of surplus products of Missouri's counties during 1906 of fruits, vegetables, plants and herbs brought to the state \$10,300,360., as against \$8,303,840 for the year immediately preceding, a total for the two years of \$18,604,200. There were decreases in several of the items making up these classes, the most notable of these being in the strawberry shipments, which dropped from 1,220,093 crates in 1905 to 914,746 crates in 1906, and from \$3,197,167 in value to \$1,738,016, a loss of \$458,131. The decreases aggregated \$722,222, leaving a net gain in 1906 over the preceding year of \$1,996,520. The most conspicuous gain is in apples. In 1905 the shipments reached 348,378 barrels, valued at \$977,136; while in 1906 the shipments reached 1,979,012 barrels, which were valued at \$2,473,764, a gain of 1,630,634 barrels and an increase of \$1,496,528 in their worth. The figures in this bulletin, which give the shipments of all these commodities for both 1905 and 1906, their value for the two years and show the increase or decrease made, are also worthy of study for their extent. For instance, in addition to a total of 60,338,157 pounds of fresh vegetables shipped in the two years, 55,958,525 pounds of canned vegetables were exported, making a total of 116,096,676 pounds of vegetables.

The peach crop of Arkansas and Oklahoma was estimated early in the season at about three thousand carloads, but fell considerably short of this by the time they were ready to ship. As a general proposition in Arkansas the crop was good, fairly large and highly profitable. What some individuals, who attend strictly to business, can accomplish in the way of growing peaches, can be seen in the reports published in the local newspapers. Mr. W. H. Davey, of Siloam

Springs, Ark., has a fruit farm three miles from town, the same planted in apples and Elberta peaches. The latter were picked and marketed, and the report thereon is as follows:

Gross returns from peach crop.....\$3,034.49
Expenses for crates and labor..... 528.94

Net returns from all kinds of peaches \$2,505.55

Total Elberta trees in bearing 478, producing 3,351 crates, averaging per tree \$4.60, per crate net 65 cents. Ninety-three trees set in 1896 on four-fifths of an acre netted this year \$703.50; netted in 1901, \$200; in 1902, \$615, the other years say \$50; total for eight bearing years, \$1,568.50, and an average per year of nearly \$200.

Mr. A. J. Phillips, of Springdale, Ark., in Washington County, purchased a bare tract of 120 acres five years ago. He now has 46 acres of peaches, of which 15 acres are bearing; 6,000 apple trees, 500 pear trees, 500 cherry trees, 2 acres in grapes, 5 acres in raspberries, 1 acre in blackberries, 2 acres in dewberries, 60 acres in strawberries and 50 plum trees. From his 15 acres in peaches Mr. Phillips sold this year 4,722 crates of peaches for which he received \$6,900.55; selling at the same time the culls to a canning factory for \$561; and one car on consignment for which he received \$480, making a total of \$7,641.05, an average exceeding \$509 per acre. Besides this, he received \$1,400 for this year's strawberry and raspberry crop and the total receipts of the farm, excluding the apple trees, which are not yet in bearing, will amount to \$10,000.

Mr. W. A. Wonderly, Route 1, Siloam Springs, Ark., has eight acres of Elbertas filled in between apple trees. The eight acres yielded a crop that sold for \$1,290

gross, or \$1,095 net. The young apple trees on these eight acres will bear \$100 worth of fruit this season, a gross yield of \$1,400 from this plat, or nearly \$200 per acre.

The Fruit Growers and Shippers Association, of Siloam Springs, handled in all 19 carloads, or 16,735 crates of peaches, for which the cash returns amounted to nearly \$18,000. Of strawberries the Association handled 3,988 crates, for which an average of \$2 per crate was received.

Mr. J. T. Kerr, of Rogers, Ark., refused \$5,000 for his peach crop on 30 acres. Mr. A. J. Deason, of Bentonville, Ark., received \$2,000 net for his crop from 10 acres of apples and five acres of peaches. The total crop of peaches from Benton and Washington Counties is estimated at 250 carloads, containing about 600 crates and worth on the average \$1.25 per crate. Sevier County in the southwestern part of the state, shipped 106,000 crates and obtained about the same prices. More than 160 cars of strawberries were shipped from Washington County during 1907. These berries brought an average of \$1,200 per car, and it is estimated that this crop alone netted the growers \$200,000; the peaches from the same county yielded a revenue of \$50,000.

Arkansas apples began to move August 20th, 1907, when the summer varieties appeared in the market and brought unusually good prices. The first of the winter apples began to be marketed about the end of October. The counties of Benton, Washington and Madison constitute the "Big Red Apple District of Northwest Arkansas," though some fine apples are grown in Polk County in the southwestern part of the state. The most conservative fruit growers and shippers estimate the total value of the apple crop in Benton County to be about \$1,500,000; the crop in Washington County, \$1,000,000, and these with the crop of Madison County added at more than \$3,000,000.

Mr. P. A. Rogers, manager of the Ozark Fruit Growers Association, estimates the apple crop of Benton County as follows: "The shipments from Benton County will reach 1,500 cars; each car will bring an average price of \$500. The six vinegar plants in the county will

consume 1,500 bushels each. The evaporating plants will consume during the season about 15,000 bushels. The canning factories will can about 10,000 barrels. The season will last about sixty days. I have figured on the proposition very carefully and estimate that the finished produce and shipping stock from Benton County alone will reach the enormous sum of \$1,700,000.

While some of the citizens of Arkansas have been picking up diamonds in Pike County and others have gathered pearls from the streams, those of Benton and Washington Counties have been gathering dollars in another way. Mr. Frank Ellis' orchard near Fayetteville obtained for his apples an average of \$15 per tree, or \$600 an acre. A cotton farmer feels rich when he gets a bale of cotton, worth now about \$60 from an acre, and the Iowa and Nebraska farmer talks about a prosperous year when he gets 50 bushels of corn, worth 50 cents, or \$25 an acre. In Prof. Walker's orchard near Fayetteville, there is a yield of 2,000 barrels, worth \$3 a barrel. Mr. W. M. Fishback recently sold the crop of a single apple tree of the Florence variety for \$35.80. Mr. Fishback lives at Bentonville, Ark. Mr. E. N. Plank, Jr., of Decatur, Ark., will clear for his fruit crop of 1907, consisting of apples, peaches and strawberries, \$28,000. Mr. J. L. Phlegar, of Odessa, Mo., has purchased the entire crop of apples on the 1,200 acre orchard of the Ozark Orchard Company, which will, it is estimated, yield from 50,000 to 60,000 barrels. Mr. J. F. Kimmons, of Lowell, Ark., sold the apples on five acres to a New Orleans firm for \$800, or \$160 per acre. Mr. W. R. Cady, of Rogers, Ark., sold his entire crop of 4,000 barrels to W. C. Chynoweth for \$2.50 per barrel, orchard run, and the Rogers Farmers Union obtained \$3.80 per barrel on track for Mammoth Pippins. The summer varieties of apples brought from \$3.70 to \$4.00 per barrel. Mr. M. Wheatley, of Rogers, Ark., sold his crop of 2,000 barrels on the packing table at \$2.50 per barrel. Mr. Hal Patterson, of Pea Ridge, Ark., obtained \$1 per tree for the fruit from 3,200 bearing trees. Mrs. Henry Ward, of Siloam Springs, Ark., obtained \$4 per tree for her apple crop. Mr. H. W.

Gipple, of Bentonville, sold his crop from 160 acres for \$2.50 a barrel.

This list could be continued indefinitely. The ruling price asked seems to be \$100 per acre, or \$2.50 per barrel, though choice varieties have been sold in many instances as high as \$4 per barrel at the orchards.

In the years past the fruit growers have suffered losses in not being able to readily dispose of all their fruit. Only the absolutely perfect fruit can be profitably shipped in ordinary seasons, and the culls were always difficult to dispose of, if they could be disposed of at all. This difficulty has, in a great measure, been now overcome and of the crop of 1907 every apple, large or small, will now be purchased. In fact, if necessary, the entire crop could be disposed of at home. During the past year an industry has been created which places the finished product of the orchards on the market. Vinegar factories, canneries, cider mills, evaporating plants, etc., have been established in the fruit growing regions and are found in every town of any importance in Benton, Washington, Polk and Sevier Counties. They are located in such places as to make it practicable to enable the grower to haul his fruit to the factories easily and in a very short time. Some idea of the activity of these fruit manufacturing plants can be obtained from the reports published concerning them.

The Bentonville, Ark., cannery worked up an average of 800 bushels of apples per day, employing 125 people. The Anderson Packery at Bentonville packed from 85 to 100 barrels per day and employs from 12 to 14 people. The J. W. Blocher Evaporator handles about 800 bushels of apples per day and employs 38 people. Including the vinegar plant, cider mill and the distillery, it is estimated that from 350 to 400 persons are employed in fruit manufacture in Bentonville.

At DeQueen, Sevier County, Ark., some thirty odd farm canneries were established and operated. Only the fancy peaches were shipped. In selling their canned peaches, the farmers obtained twice as much as they did for those specially selected and sold in crates. The tendency now is to can the select fruit

and thereby improve the grade of canned goods. Mr. E. N. Plank, of Decatur, Ark., as an experiment, canned several thousand cans of peaches, and found the canned fruit as profitable as the best selected fruit shipped in crates.

There are at present five canneries in Washington County and about the same number in Benton County, Ark. It is estimated that \$200,000 worth of canned goods will be shipped from Washington County alone this season. The output of the Fayetteville factory is valued at \$100,000. The two canneries at Rogers have each a capacity of 1,000 bushels per day and employ from 90 to 150 persons each and carrying a pay roll of \$600 to \$1,000 per week.

The Neosho Packing & Manufacturing Company, of Neosho, Mo., has gone through its first campaign. Its capacity is 20,000 cans per day and in an ordinary season it should be in operation nine months in the year. It was completed too late to handle any part of the strawberry crop, and was in operation this season only 54 days, on account of lack of material, the daily output being about 4,000 cans. The total output was 215,425 cans of beans, tomatoes and sweet potatoes, a gross business amounting to \$20,000, of which \$16,000 was paid for labor and raw material.

The Saunders Fruit & Manufacturing Company, of Gravette, Ark., have a tank storage capacity of 95,000 gallons, and are using from 800 to 1,000 bushels of apples per day, using about 30,000 bushels in the course of the season. Connected with the main plant which makes sweet cider, dry cider and pure cider vinegar is an extensive evaporating plant, in which the best grades are used for dried fruit and the culls for vinegar. It is estimated that this plant is worth \$10,000 a year to the fruit growers of Gravette in saving fruit which would otherwise go to waste. The vinegar factory at Rogers, Ark., worked up about 3,500 bushels of apples per day and turned out 530,000 gallons of vinegar. The vinegar plant at Gentry worked up a large quantity of fruit and had a successful run. The O. L. Gregory Vinegar Co. have completed their vinegar factory at Siloam Springs and have worked up all the apples they could obtain, making this year (1907) 250,000 gallons. The

plant, which cost \$40,000, will be enlarged in time for the crop of 1908 and it is expected that the output will be two million gallons if the crop is large. This plant has its own tank cars, bottles its products and sells direct to the merchants.

The dried fruit industry was greatly enlarged. At present a carload of dried apples is worth approximately \$2,500. At this rate the shipments from Rogers, Ark., would be worth about \$65,000, and Rogers is only one of the many points which have evaporators.

At the present time there are in existence in the Ozark fruit region the following manufacturing plants: Rogers, Ark., vinegar factory, two canneries, evaporator; Bentonville, cannery and

three evaporators; Centertown, vinegar plant and three evaporators; Gentry, cannery, vinegar plant and two evaporators; Hiawassa, three evaporating plants; Neosho, Mo., one cannery; Gravette, vinegar factory and two evaporating plants; Siloam Springs, Ark., two vinegar factories, pickle salting station, four evaporators; Maysville, evaporator; Coltage Grove evaporating plant; Decatur, cider mill and evaporating plant; Pea Ridge, evaporator; Springtown, evaporator; Hoover, evaporator; Vaughn, evaporator; Lowell, evaporator, and Avoka, evaporating plant. A large number of small farm canneries have also been established, particularly so in southeastern Arkansas, as at Mena and DeQueen, Ark.

Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Siloam Springs is the largest of the three second-class cities in Benton County, Ark. It is situated on a rolling plateau 1,200 feet above sea level and 229 miles south of Kansas City. It has 3,500 permanent inhabitants and is a large shipping point on the K. C. S. Ry. for fruit, eggs, poultry and live stock. It has modern brick business houses, elegant residences, stately churches, a fine system of water works supplied by springs, the purity of which is absolutely safe-guarded, an electric light plant, well graded streets, 12 miles of cement sidewalks and many additional miles under contract; a \$50,000 cold storage and ice plant, a \$10,000 carbonating and water shipping plant, a 150-barrel flour mill, two feed mills, two large vinegar factories, a machine shop, cooperage, two evaporators, planing mill, wholesale flour and feed stores, wholesale produce house, three banks, four department stores and a system of business houses that would do credit to a much larger city. The building brick is furnished by two local yards, and limestone in blocks is obtained from several quarries.

The climate of Siloam Springs, which is agreeable both winter and summer, the abundance of pure spring water, the magnificent scenery surrounding it and the fine opportunities presented for en-

gaging in business, make it a most desirable location for business ventures and for a home. The scores of modern residences, well kept lawns, street improvements, etc., show a spirit of home, which promises well for the city, which is well shaded with hundreds of stately forest trees. Two well shaded parks lie convenient to the business district, provided with seats and other comforts and are adjacent to springs of pure, cold water. Other parks environ the outskirts of the city, showing a wise provision for future growth, health and pleasure. Home people and several thousand visitors throng these parks throughout the summer seasons.

As a producing, shipping and receiving point Siloam Springs has an excellent record. In 1904 the receipts of freight amounted to 630 cars; in 1905, 751 cars; in 1906, 840 cars, and of shipments there were in 1904, 337 cars; in 1905, 395 cars; in 1906, 445 cars. The gross value of the freight, passenger and express business of the city was in 1905, \$64,000; in 1906, \$72,000. The postal business amounted in 1901 to \$1,908.44; 1902, \$3,990.55; 1903, \$4,350.33; 1904, \$4,888.25; 1905, \$5,503; 1906, \$6,033.97; total, \$26,674.58. In February, 1907, the school board of the city sold an issue of \$25,000 bonds and has since completed

the construction of a high school building. The plans and specifications provide for a modern pressed brick building of two stories and basement, 12 class rooms, library and an auditorium to comfortably seat six hundred people. This building is provided with steam heat and has all modern appliances.

The Kansas City Southern Railway provides four mail and passenger trains daily. The Rogers Southwestern has been completed to Siloam Springs and is running two trains each way per day. It is intended to extend this line northeast to Eureka Springs, Ark., and southwest to Pryor Creek, Okla., and will make accessible good markets east and west. During the year 1907, ten miles of substantial concrete sidewalks have been laid and curbing and parkways have been made. The Arkansas Chautauqua Association erected its splendid circular steel pavilion, so that a thousand people can be comfortably seated. The largest and best vinegar plant in the west has been located here, and this plant has an annual capacity of two million gallons and a storage of 500,000 gallons. More than 75 beautiful residences were erected during the year and 50 per cent more business was transacted than in any previous year.

The products shipped from Benton County, Ark., are of considerable variety and with the fruits shipped in 1906 were valued at \$3,000,000. Siloam Springs shipped in that year apples to the value of \$75,000; peaches, \$15,000; berries, \$30,000; poultry, \$65,000; eggs, \$150,000; mules, \$100,000; hogs, \$50,000, and cattle, \$20,000; total, \$500,000. The shipments of 1907 will far exceed in value the shipments of 1906. The jobbing trade of Siloam Springs, nearly all handled by wagon, amounted in 1905 to \$132,000, and in 1906 to \$145,000. The three banks of Siloam Springs carry average deposits of half a million dollars, and the gross annual business transactions exceed \$12,000,000.

During 1905 and 1906 the building improvements amounted in cost to \$185,000; the municipal improvements, such as streets, sidewalks, bridges, etc., in the same period cost \$35,000 more. The aggregate value of real estate transactions, which took place from 1904 to 1906 was \$550,000.

The Arkansas Conference College of the M. E. Church is located here and has a fine three story college building. The value of the grounds and buildings is \$30,000, and the college endowment \$20,000. A full college course is carried on from year to year and the enrollment of students, which is large, has increased yearly. The annual Chautauqua Assembly and the Missionary Conference of the Southwest are permanent annual events, and a large auditorium has been built for their accommodation.

Siloam Springs, as it stands, is a self-contained city. The growth of the adjacent country requires the enlargement in certain manufacturing and commercial lines. A large canning factory, a fruit preserving plant, a machine shop, a foundry, a woodworking plant, a plant for manufacturing fruit packages from the raw material, and a wholesale grocery, and other jobbing houses, would do well here.

During the summer months from 1,500 to 2,500 people from other localities come to Siloam Springs to rest and recuperate and during this time the city is taxed to the uttermost to accommodate the visitors. There is room and ample patronage for a hundred-room hotel or several modern hotels of smaller dimensions. A public bath house and bathing pool are in great demand and an attractive location for the same could be had for the asking.

As a pleasure and health resort Siloam Springs is well known. Its summers are moderately warm and the winters are mild. Even in midsummer, the atmosphere is bracing, while the nights are always cool and refreshing. The springs of pure cold water, of which there are twenty-two inside the city limits, are curative in their properties and are especially helpful in stomach and kidney troubles. Many cures have been brought about and rheumatic and kidney troubles seem to yield readily to the use of the waters.

In the way of pleasure Siloam Springs offers many attractions. The highways leading out of town in almost every direction are highly improved and afford fine facilities for carriage, bicycle or automobile travel. There are many points of interest within easy reach, beautiful streams like Flint Creek, Sager Creek

and Illinois River, with good fishing in all of them. There are many caves with in a few miles of town and adventurous spirits can find ample grounds for investigation and exploration. The strongest endorsement of Siloam Springs lies in the great number of people who come here year after year from the interior of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas and spend the summer here. Many come here with yellow complexions, which are soon cleared to a bright, ruddy glow; the dragging, wearied steps soon gives place to brisk, elasticity. The walk of a few blocks which tires the fagged-out women and children upon their first few days here is soon superceded by long tramps, hill and mountain climbing and the genuine pleasure of living. A good, healthy appetite is soon created and delicious fruits, crisp vegetables, poultry, eggs, milk and meats can be had in abundance. While offering all the advantages of leading summer resorts elsewhere, the expenses are very reasonable. The city is well supplied with good hotels and boarding houses, where the rates are moderate. Many visitors rent furnished rooms or a cottage and keep house. While famous mostly as a summer resort, a considerable number of people from the far north spend the winter here.

Mention has been made above of the gross income derived in Siloam Springs from its various sources of revenue. It might not be amiss to state a fact or two showing how this income is secured.

Figures are not always dry. The results on W. H. Younker's 10-acre tract in the south edge of Siloam Springs in 1906 are given, all of which can be verified: Five acres peaches, 1,416 crates, gross, \$883.48; expense, \$454.66; net, \$428.82. Half-acre strawberries, 142 crates, gross, \$148.40; expense, \$102.82; net \$45.58. Three-quarter acre blackberries, 183 crates, gross \$206.80; expense, \$126.79; net \$80.01. Forty-five crates plums, \$30.10; expense, \$14.68; net, \$15.42. Seven crates raspberries, \$15.75; expense, \$8.29; net,

\$7.46. Three crates cherries, \$7.80; expense, \$2.61; net, \$5.19. Netted from grapes, \$4.50; dewberries, \$5; potatoes, \$33.75; corn, \$8. Apples, worth \$20, all used by family, also \$100 worth of garden and other fruit used by family. Gross returns from 10 acres, \$1,463.58; net, after all labor and other expenses were paid, \$753.73.

Poultry—Northwest Arkansas is the natural home for poultry, which grow to perfection here. Eggs and poultry furnish a big revenue here. Mild winters furnish green rye, clover and wheat, cheapening the cost of feed, and poultry is raised here cheaper than any other place. Each hen is expected to lay 150 to 200 eggs a year, 14 dozen. Feed is usually reckoned \$1 a hen per year, but on the farm it is not over 50c. An example: A lady east of town sold \$16 worth of eggs in 32 days in January and February and fed nothing. The hens had a rye patch and stock feed lot to run in. Many farmers with no special attention to poultry sell eggs enough to buy all family groceries and other supplies. Price of eggs ranges from never below 10c in summer to 20c or even 25c in winter. The average hen easily lays 125 eggs a year, which, at 12c is \$1.25; 50c for feed leaves 75c a hen net. Nothing on the farm pays a greater percentage of profit than chickens. The market for poultry and eggs is unlimited. In 40 days since January 15, one buyer has paid \$80,000 here for 36 cars of eggs. There is room for scores of new poultry farms here, and profits are sure.

All things considered, Siloam Springs is a delightful, healthful place to live in, a good place to do business of any legitimate kind. It is surrounded by a magnificent farming country, suitable for all agricultural pursuits, but particularly good for the cultivation of fine fruits and the production of fine live stock, poultry and eggs and a splendid place to spend a summer vacation in. Write to W. T. La Follette, Cashier State Bank, Siloam Springs, Ark., for information.

Mining Sulphur in Louisiana.

The works of the Union Sulphur Company at Sulphur, near Lake Charles, La., writes John Benson to the *Manufacturers' Record*, have reached a point, with regard to magnitude, but little known to the public. Here is one of the greatest steam-generating plants to be found anywhere. Imagine 140 boilers of from 150 to 200 horse power, each generating steam as fast as the use of fuel oil applied in the most approved method will permit, yet which are insufficient in capacity to meet the increasing demands of sulphur production. The mines have an output of from 400 to 600 tons of sulphur daily, and this, too, in the form of practically pure sulphur, forced from the bowels of the earth in veritable streams of molten gold. When one has mentally digested these facts he will have conceived an idea of the importance and the wealth producing of the plant of the Union Sulphur Company.

The peculiarity of this great plant consists in the application of steam and hot water as a production or mining agent. The generation of steam is, therefore, not for power purposes, and while there has been expended for boilers, pumps, heaters and piping perhaps \$2,000,000, a few hundred dollars would cover the power of steam power engines. The latter are used for operating machine shafting and in one or two other locations on the premises where power is required.

Mr. Benson goes on to describe the discovery of the immense bed of sulphur, and the early efforts made to mine it, and continues: The sulphur as it comes from the well is 99 per cent purity, and outside of medical purposes, rarely needs refining. The processes of operation in the various forms is a special method of sinking a well with five casings. The pumping outfit resembles, and is, in fact, almost identical with petroleum producing rigs. The patent documents read: No. 1, the outside casing is a 13-inch pipe driven through the quicksand; No. 2

is a 10-inch pipe anchored in the sulphur rock; No. 3 is a 5 3-4 inch pipe sunk several feet into the sulphur rock; No. 4 is a 2 1-2 inch pipe with a screen on the end, and is sunk a little lower than No. 3; No. 5 is a 1-inch pipe sunk to the bottom of No. 4.

The following describes the method reported to have been in operation about five years ago, which is said to be in conformity with the patent documents, but which is really materially different from the present method, which came under my personal observation and which I shall describe later on in this article:

When ready to pump a well they would steam up their 15 boilers and pump into the 5 3-4 inch pipe water heated to about 350 degrees. This was continued for eight or ten days, when sulphur, transformed into a yellow transparent, steaming liquid, was pumped into cooling vats, previously prepared of lumber, about 25x100 feet and one foot deep, where it spread out, filling the vats and cooling into a deep yellow, glistening rock. When thoroughly cooled it was broken up with picks and piled to one side, ready for market.

Today the method, which is by far superior to that said to be of the past, is as follows: Each battery of boilers consists of about 20. There are on the grounds of the company seven batteries. To each battery is attached a superheating steam system as well as air compressing equipment. A battery of boilers furnishes the desired amount of steam for the operation of a fixed number of wells—four, six or eight, as the case may be—while there are on the grounds upwards of 40 derricks or pumping rigs, many of which have not yet been opened up, but stand ready for drilling and producing. The boilers are especially made for the use of oil fuel. Each boiler carries from 90 to 100 pounds of steam pressure.

In adjoining buildings to each boiler house the pumping and superheating machinery is located. The heaters con-

sist of vertical boiler-shaped receptacles of about four feet in diameter and perhaps 16 feet in height. Well constructed piping running zigzag through the interior of the heater from top to bottom, through which the steam courses direct from the boilers, runs up the temperature of the water to 312 degrees. The hot water is then forced by means of air compressing machinery down to the sulphur rock stratum, perhaps 800 feet in depth. The effect of the hot water on the sulphur rock causes the sulphur to become liquefied, and it is then in shape to be forced out and to the surface. This is effected by means of piping, one size being encased in the other. The outer pipe is 12 inches in diameter, the inner one about six inches in diameter. The space between the outer and inner piping is used to carry the superheated water down to the sulphur deposit, while the inner pipe is the vehicle through which the molten sulphur is forced up from the bottom to the surface.

The superheated water which enters the well through the 12-inch piping referred to is forced downward by means

of air compression. Continuous pressure, therefore, results in forcing up the liquefied sulphur from the bottom in a constant stream. It is then carried overhead by piping to great vats suitably located throughout the premises. These vats simply consist of boarding or common one-inch lumber run to 20 feet, the vat forming a square of from 75 to 100 feet.

The discharge pipe from the wells is fixed so that the molten material falls almost in the center of these great vats. The moment the liquid strikes the earth the water begins to evaporate and the sulphur to congeal, and before its outer edges have spread out as far as the four walls formed by the one-inch boarding it has solidified. When the vats are filled to the top and evaporation ceases, the side boardings are removed and an immense square block of solid and pure golden yellow sulphur stands ready for shipment. The sides are picked for the purpose of loading into box cars, and while disintegrating readily, falls in masses down the crumbling bank, resembling common rock, excepting in color.

Industrial Notes.

ASHDOWN, ARK.—The city school board has resolved to build a two story addition to the High School. The school population of Ashdown is 647. The Nashville Lumber Co. have closed a contract for sinking a gas or oil well on their property near the old salt works. The Farmers' Union of Little River County has been organized for the purpose of building a large cotton warehouse at Ashdown.

BEAUMONT, TEX.—The oil pipe lines of the Guffey Oil Co. and the Texas Co., running from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Port Arthur, Texas, have been completed. The Guffey Oil Company's line has a length of 420 miles, that of the Texas Company 500 miles.

DE QUEEN, ARK.—The number of diamonds found in Pike County now exceeds 130, all of which are pronounced equal to the African product. Mr. M. L. Stanley, head of the new gas and oil company, has erected derricks on the W. F. Nichols' property, near the old salt works, preparatory to making test borings. Messrs. Cannon & Pearre have erected a substantial brick building

the lower floor of which will be used for the printing office of the De Queen Bee and the second floor as an opera house capable of seating 1,000 persons. The installation of a waterworks plant to cost approximately \$26,000 is now under consideration by the city council. Fifty-five city blocks have been ordered by the city council to be provided with concrete sidewalk, and construction is to begin at once. Messrs. Mosher Bros. have under construction a double brick store building to be occupied by a department store. The railway depot, recently destroyed by fire, is to be replaced by a new brick depot to cost approximately \$10,000.

DE QUINCEY, LA.—The Colorado Southern Railway is constructing a machine shop and the Kansas City Southern a two story hotel building. A new Baptist Church building, to cost \$30,000, is in course of erection, and an electric light plant is to be in operation by January, 1908.

COVE, ARK.—The Bank of Cove has been organized and as soon as it can complete its new building will open up for business.

FORT SMITH, ARK.—The Choctaw Asphalt Co., capital \$100,000, has been incorporated for the purpose of developing some 200 acres of asphalt deposits near Tishomingo, Okla. The Arkansas Valley Trust Co. have acquired 500 acres of asphalt deposits at Muskogee, Okla., who owns a large tract of asphalt land in the Chickasaw Nation, is arranging for the development of this deposit.

Messrs. Caldera Bros. are reported as being prepared to erect a packing house on the K. C. S. tracks in the near future. The plant is to cost \$75,000. The Hiawatha Coal Company, capital \$1,000,000, has been incorporated. The Citizens Glass Company has been organized for the purpose of manufacturing glass on Massard Prairie, where there is an abundance of natural gas.

The Burke Brick plant, costing \$110,000, and capable of turning out 100,000 bricks per day, is now completed. This plant was built to supply the bricks necessary for carrying out the million dollar paving contract with the city. The Oklahoma Vinegar Co. has made the largest pack of pickles in its history. Cucumbers were handled in carload lots, and over forty tons of cabbage were converted into sour kraut. The cider plant when in operation will turn out 100 barrels or 5,000 gallons of cider per day.

The most recent new industrial enterprises in Fort Smith are the following: The American Veneering Co., capital \$25,000. This company owns three acres of land and has its buildings completed and machinery installed and will manufacture oak and gum veneering. The Dow-Eads Chair Factory, capital \$100,000, has acquired 5 acres of land and when its factory is completed will employ 150 men. The Fort Smith Handle Factory has purchased two acres and is installing its machinery. The Border City Ice & Cold Storage Co., is erecting a three story brick building, 60x130 feet. The plant will have a capacity of 60,000 barrels. Mr. J. H. Kruei, who recently purchased two building lots, will erect a three story carriage factory on the same. The Southwestern Chair Company has let the contract for two commodious factory buildings. Z. A. and A. R. Woods and local associates have contracted for the building of a pants and over-all factory. The building and machinery will cost \$15,000. The company's capital is \$50,000 and from 100 to 125 persons will be employed in the new plant. The Fort Smith Refrigerator Co. has been organized and its capital increased from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The factory is to be enlarged. Mr. W. H. Buckley of Tennessee, has decided to locate a distillery on the Taylor Farm a few miles from the city. Mr. C. W. L. Armour and others are examining clays of this vicinity with a view to establish a cement plant if the proper kind of raw material can be found. The Fort Smith Light & Traction Company have expended \$50,000 in the en-

largement of their works. The city council has requested bids for the construction of a new sixteen room school building. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$60,000. A new mining company, capital \$25,000 has been incorporated. During the year 1907 one hundred and thirty-three new dwellings and thirty-nine business buildings have been erected at a cost of \$750,000, but for all that, few if any cottages can now be rented due to the rapid increase in population. Among the new buildings in the course of construction are the Sebastian Hotel, cost \$250,000; the Sebastian County Hospital, cost \$30,000; the Merchants Bank building, six stories high, cost \$150,000; the County Poor House, cost \$23,000; the Carnegie Library, cost \$50,000; Border City Cold Storage plant, \$10,000. Both the K. C. S. Railway and the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway are making extensive improvements in trackage and buildings. A recent school census give the city of Fort Smith a population of 32,688. The number of pupils enrolled in the city schools is over 3,000.

GRAVETTE, ARK.—The Saunders Fruit and Manufacturing Co. a new enterprise, uses from 800 to 1,000 bushels of apples per day and during the season will use 30,000 bushels. The plant employs twenty-seven people.

JOPLIN, MO.—The New Joplin Hotel being erected by the Connor heirs, containing 218 sleeping rooms and to cost \$500,000, is nearly completed and will soon be ready for occupancy. The great steel plant of the Southwestern Bridge Company, costing \$300,000 is nearly completed and partly in use. It will cost completed \$300,000. The machinery for the new pump factory is now fully installed. The W. G. Sargent Brass & Bronze Works, a new enterprise have opened up for business. The Joplin Theater Co. has been organized with a capital of \$100,000. The Empire State Mining Assn. has been organized with a capital of \$100,000 and will open up mines at Webb City, Mo. O'Shea Bros. are erecting a handsome three story building to cost \$30,000. The Heim Electric Line between Joplin and Pittsburg is under construction, the Kansas Southern Electric Railway is doing preparatory work between Chanute and Pittsburg, Kan., and the Girard Electric Coal Belt Railway has several miles of grading completed. The Bankers National Bank, capital \$300,000 has incorporated and opened for business.

NEOSHO, MO.—Mr. E. L. Carnes has built a summer theater with a seating capacity of 1,000 people. The Christian Church building is rapidly nearing completion. The Neosho Packing & Manufacturing Co., a new plant, has packed this year (1907), 215,425 cans of beans, tomatoes and sweet potatoes, and in the 54 days of its operation did a business valued at \$20,000.

MULBERRY, MO.—The Mulberry State Bank has completed its new bank building.

LAKE CHARLES, LA.—The new Viterbo building, cost \$18,000, has been completed. The building of the Lake Charles Sanitarium, cost \$50,000, has been completed and a Charity Hospital is now under construction. Mr. P. J. Unkel, of Welsh, La., has established a small plant for making ribbon cane syrup. The capacity is about 200 gallons per day. The Cobb Car Company has been incorporated, has completed its buildings and is now turning out logging cars, capital \$100,000. The Lake Charles Development Company, capital \$25,000, is a new corporation formed for the purpose of developing timber, oil and minerals. The Southland Turpentine Co., capital \$30,000, who extract turpentine and tar from pine stumps and waste, have put their new plant in operation. The Masonic Lodge has resolved to build a temple to cost from \$15,000 to \$20,000. The work of construction is to begin immediately. Mr. H. C. Stearns of Port Arthur, and citizens of Lake Charles have under consideration the construction of an opera house. The Presbyterian Congregation have contracted for a new edifice to cost \$20,000. The new building will cover an area of 65x115 feet. Construction of a new Baptist Church has been begun. This building will be constructed of gray pressed brick. The Homer Squab & Poultry Co. is a new enterprise here and is developing a large business. Messrs. Callaghan & Graham, contractors, have finished grading the Louisiana & Pacific Railway southward from Fulton, La. The grade is now completed between Lake Charles and Fulton, except 9,000 feet west of Calcasieu River. Between Fulton and De Ridder, the line is in operation. The Electric Steel Car System has added two forty foot, 70 horse power cars to its equipment. A franchise for a gas manufacturing plant for lighting and heating the city is under consideration. The daily output of the saw mills of Calcasieu Parish, when in full operation, is as follows: Calcasieu Long Leaf Lumber Co., 250,000 feet; J. A. Bel Lumber Co., 150,000 feet; Locke-Moore Lumber Co., 150,000 feet; the Krause-Managan Lumber Co., 100,000 feet; the Hodge Fence & Lumber Co., 100,000 feet; the Powell Lumber Co., 50,000 feet; J. C. Stout & Co., 50,000 feet; Norris Cain Lumber Co., 25,000 feet, and the Lyons Lumber Co., 25,000 feet, total 1,050,000 feet, to be increased shortly by an additional cut of 100,000 feet by the Calcasieu Long Leaf Lumber Co., who are enlarging their plant. The North American Land & Timber Co. has purchased from the Indian Bayou Canal Co., 6,000 acres of land and the irrigation canals connected therewith for \$150,000. The Union Irrigation Company, capital \$1,600,000 has begun the construction of the Schell Canal. The section under construction is to irrigate 25,000 acres. The initial point for construction is at Washington, La., extending from Bayou Corbaleau to the Mermentau River. Big Lake, a popular fishing and bathing resort convenient to Lake Charles is being provided

with a substantial wharf, a good hotel and a large bath house. The total assessments for Calcasieu Parish for 1907 is \$27,166,605, of which \$16,998,910 is charged against real estate, \$4,019,800 against city property and \$6,147,895 against personal property. The live stock of the parish consists of 20,726 cattle, 1,526 mules, 58,000 sheep, 11,336 goats and hogs and several thousand horses.

LEESVILLE, LA.—The contract for the construction of the court house, the same to cost \$88,000, has been awarded. Mr. B. H. Lyons has secured contracts for six new fine stone buildings in addition to six others already begun under an earlier contract.

MANSFIELD, LA.—Contracts have been awarded for the construction of a Methodist Church to cost \$20,000 and a school building to cost \$17,000.

MARBLE CITY, OKLA.—The School Board has contracted for a new school building to be completed in time for the season.

MENA, ARK.—The local Lodge of Elks have begun the construction of their new home, which will cost when completed \$10,000. A suitable building has been leased by local people who will operate a furniture factory. Messrs. Gene Dickens and John Steele have opened a harness and saddle factory. Construction of the K. C. S. Railway Employees' Hospital has been begun and is being carried speedily forward to completion. The construction of a new hotel for the accommodation of summer visitors is in contemplation by citizens of Mena. The hotel, if built, will contain from 50 to 60 guest rooms. R. D. Sale & Co. have completed their new stone building and have opened up for business. The Layson Lumber Co. have added three new planers and other machinery to their plant to manufacture doors, windows, columns, etc. The Kizer Telephone Co. has extended its lines so as to connect with the Pioneer Telegraph & Telephone Co. of Oklahoma, thus securing service to cities in Oklahoma. Messrs. Fred Rausch and Ben Strauss have established a pork packing plant, which for the present will confine itself to local needs. The Mena Box & Mfg. Co., recently organized, has purchased six acres of ground and is now constructing its factory. The American Slate Co., capital \$200,000, is making extensive improvements on its quarries and will soon begin to ship roofing slate. The state school enumeration give Polk County 6,308 children of school age, who are entitled to \$8,011.16 from the state school fund. The county has built bridges across Mountain Fork and Board Camp Creek at a cost of \$5,100.

ORANGE, TEX.—The United States Government is having an inspection made of Sabine River from Orange to Logansport, a distance of 450 miles with a view of determine what improvements can be profitably made for its navigation.

PITTSBURG, KANS.—According to a recent United States Government report the total zinc-spelter production of the U. S. in 1906 amounted to 225,949 tons, and of this the state of Kansas furnished 129,741 tons and Missouri 11,088 tons. The new buildings under construction in Pittsburg are Mr. F. C. Bordcu's New Century Building, cost \$100,000; the State Manual Training School, the new Postoffice Building, the Y. M. C. A. Building, the McCormack Building, the Carnegie Library and a three story brick structure. The Pittsburg Railway and Light Co. have laid out "Idle Hour Park," for the entertainment of the people. Mr. Daniel Mongori has opened up a straw hat factory, employing between 35 and 40 people. The Pittsburg Coal field is expanding in all directions. In the vicinity of Hallowell in Cherokee County, Kans., the Southwestern Fuel & Development Company have taken option on 2,400 acres, and the Sunflower Mining Co. on 1,600 acres, these coal lands being located along Deer Creek. The Standard Ice & Fuel Co. have decided to increase their ice plant capacity from fifty to one hundred tons per day. The Pittsburg Sewer Pipe and Conduit Company will add a large number of kilns to their works, which cover fifty-six acres and have a capacity of 100 carloads per month. About 100 men are regularly employed. The Pittsburg Planing Mill Co. will add two stories to their mill. The original mill was erected at a cost of \$25,000.

PORT ARTHUR, TEX.—The Germania Club of this city will erect at an early day a club house to cost \$25,000. The Gulf Grocery Co., a new export and import firm, have let the contract for their buildings, warehouses and for a wharf. The Port Arthur Mineral Wells Company have installed a plant for bottling and shipping mineral waters. The construction of a sanitarium is under consideration. Mr. C. L. Pelanco of Coatepec, Mex., who has made trial shipments of coffee via Port Arthur, is so well pleased with the result that arrangements have been made to ship his entire crop, some 10,000 bags.

The sulphur shipment through this port amounted to 36,700 tons of which 4,500 tons since May 1st, 1907, and up to August 1st, went abroad and the remainder to Atlantic ports. The shipment of oil between May and August amounted to 30,174,794 gallons. The Security Oil Co. is now laying another pipe line from Beaumont to Sabine, where the same company is building two oil tanks, each of 55,000 barrels capacity. The South-

ern Pacific Railway Co. has built its tracks into Port Arthur and regular train service has been provided.

POTEAU, I. T.—The National Government has appropriated \$50,000 for the purpose of determining how much merchantable coal there is on the 445,000 acres of segregated lands of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, 110,000 acres of these lands have already been leased for coal mining purposes for a period of thirty years. The Government appropriation will be used for boring test holes on the unleased lands. The LeFlore County Bank & Trust Company, capital \$50,000, have erected a bank building at a cost of \$10,000 and have opened up for business.

SHREVEPORT, LA.—The Producers Oil Company, who have made numerous oil borings near Caddo Lake, completed one oil well on July 23, 1907, which yielded 1,500 barrels of oil per day. The Barnhart Mercantile Co. of St. Louis, propose to lease a large warehouse for the storage of the peanut crop. A full set of machinery is to be installed, and the crop of \$25,000 acres, if obtainable, will be handled. The crop will have to be grown in the vicinity of Shreveport and the plant will be large enough to produce 700 carloads per annum. The Consumers' Fertilizer Co., domicile, Shreveport, La., the Thomas-Davidson-Ogilvie Hardware Co., capital \$200,000, and the Queensboro Construction Company, capital \$25,000 have filed their articles of incorporation.

SILAM SPRINGS, ARK.—The Gregory Vinegar Works, investment \$75,000, have been completed and have handled part of this year's crop. A new lumber company, capital \$10,000 has been organized. Mr. J. E. Bratt's Poultry House has handled since December 1st, 1906, forty cars of poultry and eggs, valued at \$80,000, which were shipped to New Orleans. Since January, 1903, this firm has handled 300 cars of poultry and eggs worth \$600,000. There are several firms engaged in the business at Silam Springs.

TEXARKANA, TEX.—Contracts are being made for paving the residence portion of the city in Texas, the cost to be \$250,000.

WESTVILLE, OKLA.—The Presbyterian Church will erect a building to cost \$3,000. Mr. G. W. Jones is erecting a substantial brick building adjoining the Westville Bank. The Tipton Produce Co. have built a cold storage plant sufficient to store two carloads of eggs, cost \$25,000.

The Kansas City Southern Railway Company's Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial Information Bureau.

If you are seeking a location for the purpose of opening a farm, planting an orchard, raising commercial truck, growing rice or sugar cane, raising livestock or poultry, or for the purpose of establishing fruit canneries, and evaporators, preserving, pickling or vinegar works, or to build and operate tanneries, flour mills, grist mills, cotton gins, cotton mills, woolen mills, cotton seed oil mills, fertilizer works, or to manufacture pine and hardwood lumber, wagons, agricultural implements, furniture, cooperage, fruit packages, boxes, paper stock, woodenware of every description, to operate a creamery or cheese factory, or to quarry building stone, marble or slate, or to manufacture brick, tile, sewer pipe or clay products of any description, or to mine coal, lead, zinc, iron, or to bore for oil or gas, or to engage in a mercantile business of any kind, or operate foundries, machine shops or iron works, or, if you desire to travel for health, for pleasure or for sport, for all of which there are splendid opportunities on the line of the Kansas City Southern Railway, write to

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| Amsterdam, Mo.—Commercial Club, Geo. V. Boswell, secretary. | Howe, I. T.—Bank of Howe. |
| Anderson, Mo.—State Bank of Anderson, R. W. Patterson, Cashier. | Joplin, Mo.—Commercial Club, Marion Staples, president. |
| Anderson, Mo.—Berry Growers' Association, W. E. D. Roark, secretary. | Joplin, Mo.—Miner's Bank, J. H. Spencer, cashier. |
| Anderson, Mo.—Commercial Club, Bert Dunn, secretary. | Lake Charles, La.—First National Bank, N. E. North, cashier. |
| Ashdown, Ark.—Little River County Bank, W. C. Martin, cashier. | Lake Charles, La.—Board of Trade, Leon Locke, secretary. |
| Ashdown, Ark.—Fruit Growers' Association, T. J. Lott, secretary. | Leesville, La.—Truck Growers' Association, R. H. Bonham, secretary. |
| Beaumont, Tex.—Chamber of Commerce, J. A. Arnold, secretary. | Leesville, La.—Bank of Leesville, La. |
| Cove, Ark.—Cove Horticultural Society. | Mansfield, La.—Progressive League, W. F. McFarland, secretary. |
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| DeQueen, Ark.—Fruit Growers' Association, J. C. Cannon, secretary. | Many, La.—Many Fruit Farm, Daniel Vandegaer, manager. |
| Decatur, Ark.—Fruit Growers' Association, E. N. Plank, secretary. | Mena, Ark.—Bank of Mena, F. N. Hancock, cashier. |
| DeRidder, La.—DeRidder State Bank, O. B. Pye, cashier. | Mena, Ark.—Horticultural Society. |
| Drexel, Mo.—Interstate Bank, C. C. Cable, cashier. | Mena, Ark.—Rev. Father A. P. Gallagher, Rev. Geo. Kirschke. |
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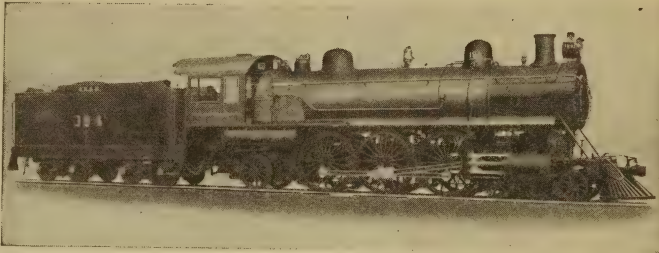
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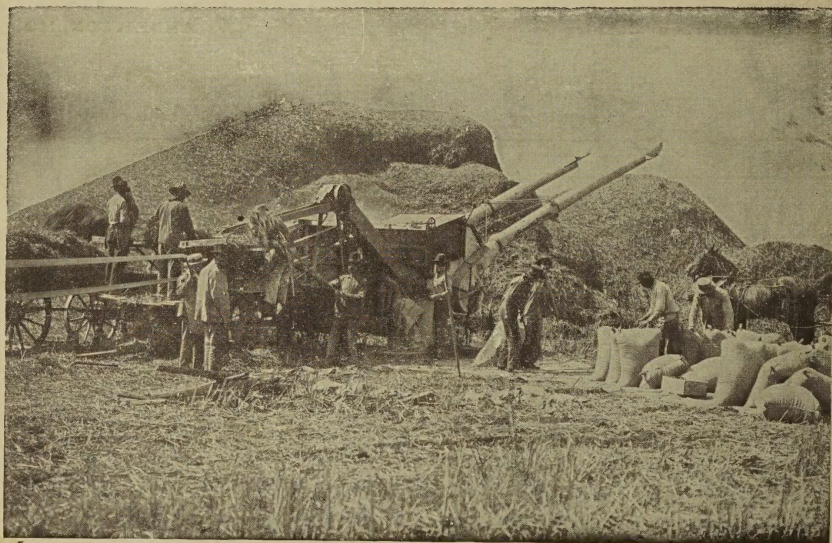
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